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日一十二月二年辰丙

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, MARCH 24TH, 1916.

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3.00 p.m.	3.00 p.m.	3.00 p.m.	3.00 p.m.
5.00 p.m.	5.00 p.m.	5.00 p.m.	5.00 p.m.
7.00 p.m.	7.00 p.m.	7.00 p.m.	7.00 p.m.
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BRITISH AND FOREIGN
BIBLE SOCIETY.ANNUAL MEETING OF HONGKONG
AUXILIARY.BISHOP OF VICTORIA AND GERM
MISSIONARIES.

The annual report of the local auxiliary of the British and Foreign Bible Society, presented at the annual meeting which was held at the City Hall last evening, showed a general advance on the part of the Auxiliary. Its endeavours to extend and extend, in Hongkong, sympathy with the Society have met with distinct encouragement. Subscriptions and donations exceeding in value those raised for the purpose in any previous year, have been collected in aid of Bible work; whilst the appeal has been widened, notably in the sphere of Church collections, the twelve churches from which help has been drawn in connection with the observance of Bible Sunday being all Chinese. One of these is at a remote point, remote from Hongkong, on the far side of the leased Territories. All the churches of the colony are represented in the auxiliary during the year.

From the Depot in Lower Wyndham Street there were during the year 1,475 Bibles, 2,754 New Testaments, and 1,825 smaller portions of Scripture, making a total of 6,054 copies, in sixteen languages. The figures of distribution by sales are a tribute to the utility of the Depot as an adjunct to local churches and missions, in a cosmopolitan community where Eastern languages, especially, are daily represented. In addition to the sale of Scriptures, calendars, scrolls and maps issued by the Bible Society, have a prominent place in the returns of distribution for the twelve months period. The Committee commend the work of the Depot to the consideration of 28,000,000 copies of the Christian Scriptures of friends of the Bible Society resident in or visiting the colony. In seeking to meet the needs of this mixed population it becomes a witness to aims and methods and services which it is the design of this Auxiliary to promote.

The Committee has had occasion, recently, to notice an instructive statement by the British and Foreign Bible Society's Agent to the effect that during a century of effort in China the Society has been the means of circulating in that country more than 28,000,000 copies of the Christian Scriptures, a fact that holds in it large possibilities of enlightenment and progress, now quickened and enhanced by the educational movements of the new time.

The balance sheet for the year showed that collections at Churches and by the Ladies Committee, along with donations, amounted to \$1,652.99, and, apart from \$37.38 for printing and other expenses, and \$22.42 loss on coins, the whole of this amount, has been devoted to the work of the Society; \$1,300.57 to the Auxiliary account, and \$292.84 to the Sub-Agency account.

The Bishop of Victoria (President of the local Auxiliary) presided over the meeting, and the address was delivered by the Rev. D. W. Lyon, M.A., National Y.M.C.A. Secretary for China. The attendance was very satisfactory, amongst those present being the Hon. Mr. Claud Severn (Colonial Secretary).

In the course of a brief address, Dr. Lander said that the Bible suited all races of the world. They may also have observed the wonderful help which the Bible had been to the men who were fighting their battles. He referred to the words of the late Lord Roberts when he urged the men who were fighting to look for spiritual help from the Bible, and went on to say that the Bible was, and could be, a great peace-maker. In all their hearts, he said, there was an intense longing for peace. They did not want an unrighteous peace, or a peace that would be only temporary; but he wished to say that there must be, in every heart, an intense longing for peace, and that when a peace, a permanent peace, came, it must be based upon the lines laid down by the Bible. The Bishop went on to say that that intense desire for peace must be in every heart alike, and added that even in Germany the Society had many supporters, and they found that last year the Kaiser himself subscribed £25 to the funds of the Society; though that may not be any great recommendation for the Society. However, from another point of view it was interesting to note that there were many Germans who loved their Bible as we did. In this connection the Bishop read an extract from a speech by the Bishop of Chota Nagpur in which the latter condemned the charges which had been made against German missionaries in

HONGKONG TENNIS LEAGUE
ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Hongkong Tennis League was held in the Hon. Secretary's office, Hongkong C.C. Pavilion, last evening, Dr. Forsyth presiding over a fair attendance.

The annual report stated that ten Clubs participated in the Shield Competition, viz.—Kowloon A.C., Hongkong C.C., University, Olympic, Club de Recreation, Kowloon B., Y.M.C.A. (European), Civil Service, Chinese Recreation and Wigwag—a record number for the Hongkong Tennis League. The Shield was won by Kowloon A.C. who went through the season without a defeat. Out of the forty-five fixtures, forty-four were played. The accounts show a balance in hand of \$67.66.

The CHAIRMAN said that they had had extraordinary luck in the past season, completing the whole of the fixtures save one, despite much bad weather. Kowloon was to be congratulated on winning the championship, Hongkong C.C. being second. If the latter had been able to avoid themselves of the services of their best players regularly they would undoubtedly have won. Their finances were in a flourishing condition. The expenses were very small, and they had a balance in hand of \$67.66, which was really considerably more than they wanted, and he thought they could spare \$40 for the Tobacco Fund. He was also very proud of the fact that their Hon. Secretary had been given an opportunity of going to the Front. Mr. Vivesh was going very soon, and that would necessitate the election of a successor.

The report and accounts were passed unanimously, on the motion of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. H. A. Nisbet.

It was resolved to vote \$40 to the Tobacco Fund. The officers were elected as follows:—President, Dr. Forsyth; Vice-President, Mr. H. A. Nisbet; Hon. Secretary, *pro tem.*, Dr. Lindsay Woods.

During a discussion on the question of possible entries, the CHAIRMAN suggested it would be advisable to form two Divisions of the League. He announced that he would gladly present a trophy for the second division. It was decided that this be made known, and that Clubs be given a fortnight in which to send in their entries. No teams were to be admitted after the close of the date of receiving entries.

The CHAIRMAN, at the close of the business, moved that a hearty vote of thanks be passed to the Hon. Secretary and Treasurer for his excellent work. The other officers were the ornaments of the Club, and all the work devolved upon Mr. Vivesh. He hoped that Mr. Vivesh would be spared to return to them with many honours on his breast to take up the position he was now vacating. (Applause.)

HONGKONG C.C. TENNIS
TOURNAMENT.

The following games were played in the tournament yesterday:—

CHAMPIONSHIP SINGLES.
H. J. Verney beat Wan Yik Shung, 6-4, 6-2, 6-3.

HANDICAP SINGLES "A."
A. A. Claxton (rec. 3-6) beat H. A. Nisbet (owe 30), 6-2, 9-7. Nisbet played an uphill game against heavy odds and an excellent player, and only narrowly succumbed in the second set.

PROFESSIONAL PAIRS.
Lieut. Colonel Crisp and Lieut. Hamilton beat W. G. Worcester and A. L. Dowbiggin, 6-1, 6-2.

India; charges of undermining the youth of the country, of espionage and exploiting Christian work on behalf of the evil desires of the Kaiser, which, he said, were absolutely groundless, and must have been made by Englishmen who knew absolutely nothing at all of what they were speaking. The Rev. D. W. Lyon made a strong appeal on behalf of the Society. He pointed out the extensive work which was performed by it, and the many volumes and many tongues in which the Bible was published by the Society with the direct object of spreading the Word. The Society was commended in troubled times, and it had grasped the present opportunity for expansion. No less a number than 3,000,000 volumes of the scriptures had been distributed among the soldiers who were fighting and those who were in hospital. The war had not been a hindrance to the Society's work, but had been used for opening up a new sphere of operations. Referring to the work of the Society in China, the speaker said that the circulation of the Bible in China was one fourth of the whole circulation of the Society in the whole world. Last year 10,000,000 copies of the scriptures were circulated, and 2,500,000 of these were distributed in China. Speaking of what China had done for the Society, the Rev. Lyon said that the subscriptions from China during the past four years averaged \$4,890. Last year it was \$6,331, and of this amount Hongkong sent \$2,085, or \$600 above the average.

KOWLOON C.C. TENNIS
TOURNAMENT.

The draws in connection with the Kowloon Cricket Club's tennis tournament are as under:—

CHAMPIONSHIP SINGLES.
E. Abraham v. G. Hamilton.
Lt. Col. Crisp v. Lindsay Woods.
J. V. Braga v. Winner of first round.
A. Vivesh v. O. R. Chunyut.
J. W. Christian v. B. D. Evans.
Best of five sets; winner to play S. E. Green (holder).

HANDICAP SINGLES "A." (Three sets.)
H. H. Taylor (rec. 3-6) v. B. D. Evans (owe 5-6).
E. Abraham (owe 3-6) v. A. O. Brown (rec. 4-6).
W. F. A. Knapp (rec. 15 3-6) v. Lt. Col. Crisp (owe 4-6).
Winner v. Dr. L. Woods (rec. 3-6).

O. B. Chunyut (owe 1-6) v. J. V. Braga (ser.).
Lt. Col. Watson (rec. 2-6) v. W. H. Stapleton (ser.).
A. G. Pile (rec. 15 3-6) v. A. Vivesh (rec. 2-6).
C. E. Watson (ser.) v. J. W. Christian (rec. 15).

S. B. Green (owe 40) v. H. S. Rouse (rec. 15 3-6).
Lt. O. R. Hamilton (owe 15) v. J. V. Stalker (rec. 2-6).

HANDICAP SINGLES "B." (Three sets.)
E. P. Musso (owe 3-6) v. A. A. Bryson (ser.).
A. H. Carroll (owe 3-6) v. A. do Carvalho (rec. 2-6).
C. Mycock (ser.) v. J. Ralston (owe 5-6).
W. T. Elson (ser.) v. N. L. Ralston Jr. (rec. 2-6).

F. Sutton (ser.) v. W. Farmer (ser.).
C. J. Stapleton (owe 15) v. A. G. MacDonald (owe 15).
G. Perkins (owe 3-6) v. N. J. Austin (owe 15).

N. Peterkin (owe 15) v. J. M. Jack (ser.).
K. Anderson (ser.) v. E. B. Reed (owe 3-6).
A. E. Goldring (rec. 3-6) v. H. Weyler (owe 15).

P. W. A. Wilkie (owe 3-6) v. A. Davidson (owe 5-6).
G. H. May (ser.) v. M. L. Ralston (rec. 5-6).

J. H. Mead (owe 3-6) v. D. H. McLeod (owe 3-6).
R. Abraham (owe 15) v. O. Holberg (rec. 3-6).

HANDICAP DOUBLES (Three sets; Final five.)
G. Perkins and A. Vivesh (ser.) v. A. B. Bryson and A. G. Pile (rec. 4-6).
O. R. Chunyut and E. Abraham (owe 15) v. F. Sutton and E. B. Reed (rec. 4-6).
A. O. Brown and P. R. Wolf (ser.) v. J. H. Mead and H. Weyler (rec. 1-6).

W. H. and C. J. Stapleton (ser.) v. H. S. Rouse and E. H. Pegg (rec. 3-6).
S. E. Green and Dr. L. Woods (owe 30) v. W. T. Elson and G. H. May (rec. 4-6).

J. C. Finch and D. Neilson (rec. 15) v. F. P. Musso and K. McLennan (rec. 4-6).
W. L. Wessner and W. J. McKenzie (rec. 1-6) v. J. V. Braga and A. H. Carroll (ser.).

A. Davidson and R. Anderson (rec. 2-6) v. W. F. A. Knapp and C. Mycock (rec. 3-6).
J. Ralston and P. W. A. Wilkie (rec. 2-6) v. W. Farmer and J. M. Jack (rec. 3-6).

J. Stalker and R. Abraham (ser.) v. Lt. Col. Crisp and R. E. Lindell (owe 30).
M. L. and N. L. Ralston (rec. 3-6) v. W. Key and L. Foster (ser.).

J. de Roma and B. D. Evans (owe 15) v. J. R. Capell and D. A. McLeod (ser.).

MIXED DOUBLES HANDICAP.
E. Abraham and Mrs. C. Duncan (owe 4-6) v. P. R. Wolf and Mrs. Forsyth (owe 3-6).

N. L. Ralston Jr. and Miss M. Neave (rec. 3-6) v. M. L. Ralston and Miss W. Edwards (rec. 4-6).

W. T. Elson and Mrs. Steel (rec. 15) v. Capt. and Mrs. Ritchie (rec. 15 2-6).
W. L. Wessner and Mrs. Edwards (rec. 4-6) v. D. J. Mackenzie and Miss Henderson (rec. 2-6). Winners v. W. J. Austin and Mrs. Whitmarsh (ser.).

H. Weyler and Miss Lesbirel (ser.) v. Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Christian (rec. 4-6).
Winners v. O. R. Chunyut and Miss Long (owe 15-6).

P. W. A. Wilkie and Miss L. Neave (ser.) v. R. E. Lindell and Miss Robertson (owe 2-6).
W. Farmer and Miss Jack (rec. 3-6) v. F. Sutton and Mrs. Crawford (rec. 2-6).

Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Green (owe 30) v. J. Stalker and Mrs. Crappell (ser.).

SCRATCH PAIRS.
Lt. Col. G. B. Crisp and R. E. Lindell v. E. Abraham and O. R. Chunyut. J. Stalker and W. Cooper v. W. Key and E. H. Pegg. F. Sutton and E. B. Reed v. J. V. Braga and B. D. Evans. A. Vivesh and J. W. Christian v. S. E. Green and Dr. L. Woods.

BOGUS DEAL?

A Canton shopkeeper has reported to the police that he is the victim of a bogus deal. He states that on the 22nd inst. a clansman introduced him to four men at 30, New Street, and a bogus transaction took place for the purchase of fruit. He handed over \$450, and has not seen, nor heard of the men since.

PRICE OF NAILS QUADRUPLED AT
HANGCHOW.

The Hangchow correspondent of the N. C. Daily News writes on March 10th:—Ordinary wire nails are now selling here at \$23 a keg; before the war the price was \$6 or a little less. I hear that the Chinese are talking of striking the nail on the head and building a nail-making factory in order to capture the trade, which is now an extensive one in Hangchow, as the foreign nail has quite pushed the native nail out of the market.

HONGKONG SHARE MARKET.

Messrs. Vernon & Smyth, in their weekly share report, dated the 23rd March, state:—

The local share market continues active, and prices with few exceptions are well maintained. "Rubbers" remain at about the same level as last quoted, and are not at present attracting much attention. Plantation Rubber is quoted in London at 3/6, and Standard Tin at £100, business here. Bar Silver has advanced to 57½, and Sterling T.T. to 111 13-16. The T.T. rate on Shanghai is now quoted at 72½, and the Bank's buying rate for 3 d/s bills on that port at 70.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai are a quiet market with a few shares obtainable at \$700.

MARINE INSURANCES.—Unions have advanced to a buying quotation of \$1,000 with a small sale reported at \$1,005. Cantons are in request, at \$423, but sellers are not at present in evidence, and no sales are reported. North China, are unchanged at a nominal quotation of Tls. 180, and Yangtze in demand in the North at the enhanced quotation of \$300 at ex. 73.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Chinas, following the improvement in Unions, have advanced to a buying quotation of \$167 with business done. Hongkongs have been booked at \$420, and close firm at this rate.

SHIPPING.—Douglas, on the announcement of an interim dividend of \$5 per share, advanced to \$134, at which rate business has been booked; the market closing with probable sellers for settlement account. Indos have ruled firm, and close with sales and buyers at \$47½ for the Preferred, and \$131½ for the Deferred. Steamboats have advanced rapidly, and can now be placed at \$24. Star Ferries continue in request at \$39½, with no shares obtainable at the moment.

OLDS.—Shels have been booked at 98½ and 98½, and more shares are required for the former rate. Ural Caspians are on offer at 35½, and Langkats in demand in the North at Tls. 37½.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars have steadily advanced to a buying quotation of \$145 with intermediate sales at \$142 to \$144, and could probably now be placed at \$146. Luxons are quiet at the nominal quotation of \$42.

MILLS.—Kailans have had a sharp rise, and been placed at 38½, now closing with buyers at 35½, with no shares on offer. Tronohs are easier, with shares on offer at 30½, after sales at 30½ and 40½. Raups remain a dull market, with a nominal quotation of \$2.20.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have been an active stock, and business has been transacted at \$123½ for the old issue, and \$118½ for the new, there being also a good demand for forward shares at equivalent rates. Kowloon Wharves have been placed at \$71, and now close with more shares wanted at the rate. Shanghai Docks have been the medium of business at the improved rate of Tls. 67, and more shares are required for Shanghai and Hongkew Wharves close with a nominal quotation of Tls. 30.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Central Estates remain a quiet market, with shares on offer at \$99. Hongkong Lands are unchanged with sellers at \$104, and Hongkong Hotels are quiet with a nominal quotation of \$112½. Hamarve Estates have been dealt in at prices varying between \$6.05 and \$3.80, and at which latter rate they close in demand. Kowloon Lands have a nominal quotation of \$37½, and West Points have been placed at \$68.

COTTON MILLS.—In the North, Evros are wanted at Tls. 145, Kung Yik at Tls. 13½, and Shanghai Cottons at Tls. 93. Yangtzepeeps are quiet, with a nominal quotation of Tls. 61.

MISCELLANEOUS.—China Providents have been sold at \$9.30, Cements at various rates between \$10.20 and \$10.80, Ropes at \$30, and Watsons at \$7.10. Dairy Farms are wanted at \$32. Electric at \$45, Ropes at \$39, Trams at \$5.60, Peak Trams (old) at \$10, new issue at 85 cents, and Powells at \$64. The following have a nominal quotation: viz.—China Boreas \$104, China Light and Power \$4.60, Ice \$31, Water-bone \$15½, and Steam Laundry \$3½. At the close there are sellers of Cements at \$10.50 with probable buyers at \$10.40.

MEMO.—Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 28th inst. Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 28th inst. China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd., ordinary meeting on the 28th inst. Luzon Sugar Refining Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 31st inst. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., ordinary yearly meeting on the 3rd April. Transfer books closed from the 27th inst. Douglas Steamship Co., Ltd., interim dividend of \$5 per share payable on the 27th inst.

Next settling day, March 29th.

"THEY HAVE KILLED MY
DADDY."

A correspondent somewhere in the Midlands writes: "One man hearing the whirr of engines was on the point of going to his garden to watch the arrival, when a bomb fell at his feet. A fragment struck him on the head and he died immediately. His child, who had followed him out of the house, was also followed to pieces, but the same street were blown to pieces, so the occupants had gone into the street to watch the arrival and escaped with minor injuries. An explosive bomb dropped on a wall dividing two houses, which were demolished."

LANE,
CRAWFORD & Co.

OUR SPORTS DEPARTMENT HAS JUST
RECEIVED CONSIGNMENTS OF THE
FOLLOWING GOODS:

SHILLCOCK'S
FOOTBALLS

"McGREGOR," "JOHN BULL," "CLINKER."

TENNIS RACKETS

"LAMBERT CHAMBERS," "DOHERTY,"

"TOURNAMENTS," "VANTAGE."

TENNIS BALLS

SLAZENGERS', AYRES' AND SPALDING'S

ALL PACKED ONE DOZEN IN TIN BOX.

STRONG ASH TENNIS POSTS.

STEAM TARRED TENNIS NETS.

COURT MARKERS, CENTRE GUIDES, TENNIS

BALL CLEANERS, RACKET COVERS, ETC.

LANE, CRAWFORD & Co.

HONGKONG, CANTON, MACAO &
WEST RIVER STEAMERS.

JOINT SERVICE OF THE HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO
STEAMBOAT CO., LTD., AND CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

HONGKONG-CANTON LINE.			
Single Fare by Night Steamer	...	...	\$6.00
Return " " (available also for return by day steamer)	...	...	10.00
Single Fare by Day Steamer	...	...	4.00
Return " " " " " "	...	...	8.00

HONGKONG TO CANTON. | CANTON TO HONGKONG.

FRIDAY, 24th MARCH, 1916.	
8 a.m. HEUNGSHAN.	8 a.m. KINSHAN.
10 p.m. KINSHAN.	5 p.m. HONAM.

SATURDAY, 25th MARCH, 1916.	
8 a.m. HONAM.	8 a.m. HEUNGSHAN.
10 p.m. HEUNGSHAN.	5 p.m. KINSHAN.

HONGKONG-MACAO LINE.

S.S. SUI TAI, Tons 1,651. | S.S. TAISHAN, Tons 2,006.

Week days at 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. from the Company's Wing Lok Street Wharf, Canton at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. from the Company's Wing Lok Street Wharf.

MACAO TO HONGKONG.

Week days at 7.30 a.m. and 2 p.m. Sundays at 7.30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

EXCURSION TO MACAO.

SUNDAY, 26th MARCH, 1916.

The Company's New Steamship "TAISHAN"

Will depart from the Company's Wing Lok Street Wharf at 9 a.m., and return from Macao at 3 p.m.

N.B.—The Company will also run a Steamer from Macao on Sunday at 7.30 a.m., and from Hongkong at 1 p.m., from the Company's Wing Lok Street Wharf.

FARES AS USUAL.

MACAO-CANTON LINE.

S.S. SUI TAI.

Departures from Macao to Canton on Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at 8.30 p.m. Departures from Canton to Macao on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, at 4.30 p.m.

JOINT SERVICE OF THE HONGKONG, CANTON AND MACAO
STEAMBOAT CO., LTD., THE CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.,
AND THE INDU-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

CANTON-WUCHOW LINE.

S.S. SAIFAM, 558 tons, and S.S. NANNING, 559 tons.

One of the above Steamers leaves Canton for Wuchow every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, at about 8 a.m., and the other leaves Wuchow for Canton on the same days at 8.30 a.m. Round trips take about 5 days. Passengers can return to Hongkong or vice versa by the Company's direct Steamers LINTAN and SANUL. These vessels have superior cabins, accommodation and are lighted throughout by electricity. Electric Fan in each Cabin. Booking Office open daily (Sunday excepted) 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Further particulars may be obtained at the Office of the—

HONGKONG, CANTON & MACAO STEAMBOAT CO., LTD.,
Hotel Mansions (First Floor), opposite the Blake Pier. [123]

Drink Wisely

MONTERRAT

Lime-Fruit Juice.

I don't care two straws for any but MONTERRAT Lime-Fruit Juice.

It's a fine healthy, cooling, and refreshing drink, and keeps me fit in the hot weather!

MONTERRAT is sold by all leading Stockholders.

NEW ADVERTISEMENTS

TO LET—AT THE PEAK.

FOUR ROOMED FURNISHED HOUSE, from 1st May, for six months, No. 67, MOUNT KELLET. Very cheap to suitable tenant.

Apply
Messrs. PERCY SMITH, SEETH & FLEMING.
Hongkong, 24th March, 1916. [452]

FOOTBALL CHALLENGE SHIELD FINAL.

THE FINAL OF THE CHALLENGE SHIELD COMPETITION will be played on the ground of the Hongkong F.C. TO-MORROW (SATURDAY), kick-off 4 P.M. The Finalists are the Hongkong F.C. and the Royal Engineers.

The Trophies and Medals will be presented at the close by Mrs. DAVID LANDALE.
W. V. PENNELL,
Hon. Secretary.
Hongkong, 24th March, 1916. [453]

HONGKONG TRAMWAY COMPANY, LIMITED.

LOST.

TRANSFER RECEIPT No. 1217 issued to Mr. LAU YU CHUNG for Transfers of 700 Shares in this Company into his name, having been Misplaced, Lost, or Destroyed, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that unless the said Receipt is produced at this Office within 30 days from the date hereof, the Certificates for the said Shares will be delivered to the said Mr. LAU YU CHUNG, and the Transfer Receipts will thereafter be held by the Company as null and void.

For the HONGKONG TRAMWAY CO., LTD.,
W. E. ROBERTS,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 24th March, 1916. [454]

THE NATIONAL LOAN OF THE THIRD YEAR OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (1914).

\$16,000,000 AND SUPPLEMENTARY ISSUE OF \$8,000,000.

THE NATIONAL LOAN OF THE FOURTH YEAR OF THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA (1915).

\$24,000,000.

SUBSCRIBERS to the above TWO LOANS are hereby notified that the Interest Instalments for the month of March, each amounting to Dollars One Hundred and Twenty Thousand (\$120,000)—\$240,000 in all—have been duly received by the Undersigned and brought to Loan Service Account.

F. A. AILEN,
Inspector General of Customs.
Peking, 18th March, 1916. [455]

PUBLIC AUCTION.

THE Undersigned have received instructions to sell by Public Auction, by Order of the Trustees of the CLUB GERMANIA (FOR ACCOUNT OF THE CONCERNED),

On MONDAY, the 27th March, 1916, commencing at 11 A.M., within the premises of the CLUB GERMANIA, Kennedy Road,

THE WHOLE OF THE VALUABLE FURNITURE, ELECTRIC FANS, LIGHT AND GAS FITTINGS, GLASSWARE AND CROCKERY, ELECTRO-PLATE, BED AND TABLE LINEN, &c., &c.,

Comprising:—Large solid teakwood Bar Furniture with bevelled mirrors, massive teakwood overmantels, extra long gilt framed mirrors, teakwood library bookshelves, leather covered, and teak and cane arm-chairs, a number of bedroom suites, wardrobes, single beds, dressing tables, washstands, chairs &c., a large quantity of electro-plate ware by Mappin & Webb, London (a lot of this is quite new and in original wrappers), table linen and napery of excellent quality, "unmarked," some of which is new stock, &c., &c.

Also
Three good Billiard tables with all accessories, one of these tables is practically new; grand Piano by Steinway, New York, and a lot of bowling alley requisites, Lawn Tennis Gear, &c.

On view from SATURDAY, the 25th. Catalogues will be issued.

Terms:—Cash.
HUGHES & HOUGH,
Auctioneers.
Hongkong, 24th March, 1916. [456]

ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

A COMPETITION will be held over the FAN LING Course commencing on 1st April for a prize kindly presented by H.E. the Governor.

CONDITIONS.—Match play under handicap. Limited to handicaps of 12 and over.

Entrance fee 50 cents per round, the proceeds to go to the War Charities Committee.

Intending competitors are requested to sign their names on the boards at Happy Valley or Fan Ling or to send same in writing to the undersigned, c/o Messrs. Bradley & Co., Ltd., not later than the 25th inst.

T. W. HILL,
Acting Hon. Secretary.
Hongkong, March 14th, 1916. [414]

DEEP WATER BAY COURSE.

A MIXED FOURSOMES COMPETITION will be held on SATURDAY and SUNDAY, 8th and 9th April.

CONDITIONS.—27 holes against Bogey, under handicap.

The Bogey score and table of holes at which strokes are to be taken will be fixed later.

Entrance fee \$2.00 per couple. Competitors must arrange their own partners and opponents and are requested to send their names to the undersigned, or to post same on the boards at Happy Valley, Fan Ling or the Hongkong Club before the 5th April.

T. W. HILL,
Acting Hon. Secretary.
Hongkong, 22nd March, 1916. [438]

PUBLIC COMPANIES

HONGKONG FIRE INSURANCE COMPANY, LIMITED.

NOTICE TO SHAREHOLDERS.

THE FORTY-SEVENTH ORDINARY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Offices of the Undersigned at Noon on TUESDAY, the 28th instant. The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 14th to the 28th instant, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd.,
General Managers.
Hongkong, 2nd March, 1916. [376]

THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING CO., LTD.

THE 32ND ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS in the above Company will be held at the Company's Office, St. George's Building, Chater Road, Victoria, TO-MORROW (SATURDAY), the 25th March, 1916, at 11.30 o'clock in the forenoon, for the purpose of receiving a Statement of Accounts and the Report of the General Managers for the year ending 31st December, 1915, and electing a Consulting Committee and Auditors.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from MONDAY, the 20th March, to SATURDAY, the 25th March, 1916, both days inclusive.

SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.,
General Managers.
Hongkong, 11th March, 1916. [408]

DOUGLAS STEAMSHIP COMPANY, LIMITED.

AN INTERIM DIVIDEND OF FIVE DOLLARS per Share has been Declared and will be Payable at the HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION on or after MONDAY, the 27th instant.

The REGISTER of the Company will be CLOSED from FRIDAY, 24th, to MONDAY, 27th instant, both days inclusive, during which days no Transfer of Shares can be made.

DIVIDEND WARRANTS will be ready on MONDAY, the 27th instant, and may be obtained on application.

DOUGLAS LAPRAIK & Co.,
General Managers.
Hongkong, 20th March, 1916. [436]

HONGKONG ICE COMPANY, LTD.

THE THIRTY-FIFTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS will be held at the Offices of the General Managers at 11.30 A.M. on TUESDAY, the 28th instant, to receive a Statement of the Company's Accounts to 31st December, 1915, and the Report of the General Managers.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 14th to the 28th instant, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd.,
General Managers.
Hongkong, 8th March, 1916. [303]

CHINA SUGAR REFINING CO., LIMITED.

NOTICE.

THE THIRTY-EIGHTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SHAREHOLDERS of the above Company will be held at the Offices of the General Agents, Pedder's Street, Hongkong, on WEDNESDAY, the 29th March, at 11.30 A.M., for the purpose of receiving the Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1915.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 14th to the 29th March, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd.,
General Agents.
Hongkong, 2nd March, 1916. [308]

LUZON SUGAR REFINING CO., LTD.

NOTICE.

THE THIRTY-FOURTH ORDINARY ANNUAL MEETING OF THE SHAREHOLDERS of the above Company will be held at the Office of the General Agents, Pedder's Street, Hongkong, on FRIDAY, the 31st March, 1916, at 11.30 A.M., for the purpose of receiving the Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1915.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 18th to 31st March, 1916, both days inclusive.

JARDINE, MATHESON & Co., Ltd.,
General Agents.
Hongkong, 12th March, 1916. [413]

THE HONGKONG AND WHAMPOA DOCK COMPANY, LTD.

NOTICE.

THE ORDINARY YEARLY MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS will be held in the Office of the Company, 2, Queen's Buildings, Connaught Road, Hongkong, on MONDAY, the 3rd April, 1916, at 12 Noon for the purpose of receiving the Report of the Directors and Statement of Accounts for the year ending 31st December, 1915.

The TRANSFER BOOKS of the Company will be CLOSED from the 27th March to the 3rd April, 1916, both days inclusive.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
R. M. DYER,
Chief Manager.
Hongkong, 21st March, 1916. [442]

HONGKONG TRAMWAY CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the COLONIAL (Hongkong) REGISTER of the Company will be closed from TUESDAY, 21st March, 1916, to WEDNESDAY, 10th April, 1916, both days INCLUSIVE.

By Order of the Board of Directors,
W. E. ROBERTS,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 13th March, 1916. [407]

INTIMATIONS

THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING CO., LTD.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that an EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF THE HONGKONG ROPE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, LTD., will be held at St. George's Building, Chater Road, Victoria, in the Colony of Hongkong, TO-MORROW (SATURDAY), the 25th day of March, 1916, at 11.45 o'clock in the forenoon, when the Subjoined Extraordinary Resolution will be proposed:

That the Articles of Association of the Company be altered in manner following:—
(a) That after the word "Company" in the 16th line of Article 110 the following words shall be added:—

"The General Managers may also with the consent of the Consulting Committee pay such bonus or bonuses as the General Managers shall think fit."

(b) That the words "Bonus or Bonuses" shall be inserted immediately after the word "Dividend" in the 18th line of Article 110.

(c) That the words "and bonuses" shall be inserted immediately after the word "Dividend" in the first line of Article 115.

Should the above Resolution be passed by the requisite majority, it will be submitted for confirmation as a Special Resolution to a further Extraordinary General Meeting which will be subsequently convened.

Dated this 11th day of March, 1916.
SHEWAN, TOMES & Co.,
General Managers. [409]

HONGKONG CLUB.

NOTICE.

THE THIRTIETH YEARLY GENERAL MEETING of the Members of the HONGKONG CLUB will be held in the Club House, on MONDAY, the 27th March, 1916, at 5.30 P.M.

By Order,
E. DES VOEUX,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 10th March, 1916. [400]

HONGKONG CLUB.

NOTICE.

THE TWENTY-NINTH HALF-YEARLY DRAWING of 35 DEBENTURES (1896 issue) of the HONGKONG CLUB will be held on FRIDAY, the 31st March, 1916, at 11 o'clock in the forenoon, in the CLUB HOUSE at 11 o'clock A.M. on FRIDAY, the 24th March, 1916.

Bearers of Debentures are invited to attend the Drawing.

By Order,
E. DES VOEUX,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 10th March, 1916. [401]

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

THE ANNUAL MEETING of the Members of the HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE will be held on TUESDAY, the 28th March, 1916, at 4 o'clock P.M. precisely, in the CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ROOM, NEW GOVERNMENT BUILDING, for the following purposes:—

1. To receive the Report and Accounts of the Committee for the year ended 31st December, 1915.

2. To elect a New Committee.

3. To transact any General business.

By Order,
E. A. M. WILLIAMS,
Secretary.
Hongkong, 18th March, 1916. [430]

GULA-KALUMPONG RUBBER ESTATES, LTD.

NOTICE.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS will take place on 14th April, 1916, the BOOKS of the Company will be closed from 24th March to 14th April, both days inclusive.

By Order,
LOWE, BINGHAM & MATTHEWS,
Colonial Register.
Hongkong, 20th March, 1916. [431]

UNIVERSITY OF HONGKONG.

MATRICULATION, SENIOR AND JUNIOR EXAMINATIONS.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the MATRICULATION, SENIOR AND JUNIOR LOCAL EXAMINATIONS will be held on the following dates:—
JULY 10th-16th, 1916.

Arrangements will be made to hold the Examinations at any town where a sufficient number of candidates offer themselves.

Candidates must send in their entry-forms, with the fee, to the Registrar, University, Hongkong, not later than May 2nd, 1916.

Forms of Entry may be obtained from the Registrar, to whom enquiries should be addressed.

The following Scholarships will be awarded on the result of the Matriculation Examination, provided that there are candidates of sufficient merit:—

Two King Edward VII. Scholarships of 240 a year each, for five years, tenable only by British subjects, who must be under the age of 21 on the 10th July, 1916. A candidate who wishes to compete must deliver to the Registrar, on or before the first day of the Examination, a certificate of eligibility in the form specified by the Regulations. One Scholarship will be tenable in the Faculty of Arts, the other in any Faculty.

One President's Scholarship of \$400 (Peking Currency) a year for five years, tenable by students of Chinese Nationality, who must be under the age of 21 on the 10th July, 1916. A candidate who wishes to compete must deliver to the Registrar on or before the first day of the Examination, a statutory declaration of eligibility, as required by the Regulations.

Five prizes of \$100 each will be awarded to the successful candidates who obtain the highest marks. The winners of the prizes may enter any University but must join the University on September 11th, 1916.

Holders of Scholarships and winners of prizes must reside in one of the Hostels directly managed by the University.

Hongkong, 22nd March, 1916. [443]

INTIMATION

THORNE'S OLD VAT

No. 4

SCOTCH WHISKY

THIS VAT WAS STARTED BY THE

LATE ROBERT THORNE OF

GREENOCK AND HAS BEEN SOLD

AS NO. 4 SINCE 1831.

SOLE AGENTS:

A. S. WATSON & CO., LTD.,

WINE & SPIRIT MERCHANTS.

TELEPHONE No. 618.

MARRIAGE.

PEACOCK-PEARSON.—At H.B.M. Consulate, and afterwards at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, on March 15th, CHARLES SAMUEL, youngest son of JOHN JAMES PEACOCK, of Chelsea, London, to ELEANOR AGNES, eldest daughter of CHARLES EDWARD and Mrs. PEARSON, of Avenue Road, Shanghai.

DEATH.

RAVEN.—At the Victoria Nursing Home, Shanghai, on March 16th, FREDERIK RAVEN, aged 37 years.

HONGKONG OFFICE: 10A, DES VOEUX ROAD, C. LONDON OFFICE: 121, FLEET STREET, E.C.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, 24th MARCH, 1916.

GERMANY SHOWING SIGNS OF WEARINESS.

According to a statement which we publish in our cable columns from the Washington correspondent of the *New York Evening Post*, the German Chancellor has indicated to the American Minister in Berlin a desire for peace on a *status quo ante bellum* basis—we deliberately ignore the demand for an indemnity from France because we regard it as mere "bluff." Experience has taught us always to seek for some ulterior motive in anything that the enemy says or does, and it may well be that Herr BETHMANN-HOLLWEG's remarks are intended either to impress neutrals with Germany's sweet reasonableness or to induce the Allies to abate the vigour of their preparations for the long-promised offensive. This little ruse has been resorted to on more than one occasion during the war. There is, however, a steadily accumulating mass of evidence to support the belief that Germany would be quite content to abandon the campaign of conquest upon which she set out so light-heartedly eighteen months ago if there was any prospect that the Allies were willing to regard it as a drawn battle. She has shot her bolt without success, and every month now sees the pressure of her foes increasing and her own powers of resistance weakening. Her statesmen must realise this fact, and even her people, though carefully hoodwinked by the censorship, are beginning to gain glimpses of the true position of affairs

and to grow restive under the losses and privations of war now that there are not even Phrygian victories with which to stimulate their patriotic zeal. Both the bankers and shipowners have addressed grave warnings to the Government and point has been given to these warnings by the recent collapse of German exchange and by the utter failure of the attempt to challenge England's supremacy at sea. The Portuguese Minister who has just been recalled from Berlin says that the former bellicose spirit of the nation has been succeeded by weariness and regrets. This statement is confirmed by many other observers, including Dr. HALVADAN KOHR, professor of political history at the Norwegian Nobel Institute, whose sympathies are distinctly pro-German. Returning to Christianity after a prolonged stay in Germany, he says that the whole country is yearning for peace. He denies that this indicates weakness, because everybody considers Germany is safe, but it is rapidly dawning upon the nation that, in spite of her immense military strength, Germany will never be able to enforce a definite decision in her favour.

Another neutral witness who has lived in Germany since the outbreak of hostilities declares that a striking change of tone has taken place. The "Gott strafe England" sentiment is a thing of the past. Many of the university men who signed the various declarations about German innocence and British perfidy at the beginning of the war now feel ashamed. "Liberals" also begin in private to admit that the German version of the diplomatic prelude to the war-tragedy will not stand close examination, and they even recognize Germany's responsibility towards Belgium. A similar change is to be seen in the masses.

It made itself felt first in the country districts and then in the towns. During the early part of the war women who complained that their husbands were called to the colours were fiercely scolded; now everybody inveighs against the war, no interest is taken in the bulletins announcing new victories, and the people only look forward to the return of their relatives. Nor is the feeling of disappointment absent from more influential circles, though the possibility of defeat is not yet admitted. In the light of these revelations it is easy to understand the hopes which inspired the attack on Verdun and the depression which must follow upon its failure, though we may be sure that the death-roll has been concealed as far as possible from the public.

There is a general consensus of opinion that the Verdun offensive was due to the German realisation that it would be fatal passively to await the Allies' spring offensive, and that it was necessary to snatch at victory while winter conditions still hampered the Russians and Italians. Though the calculations concerning German resources show wide discrepancies, events make it clear that there is a limit in the German mind which is bringing us rapidly to the climax of the war. The Balkan campaign was obviously abandoned because sufficient men, munitions and money were not available for its continued prosecution, and because the internal situation of the Germans imperatively demands an early end to the war if irreparable economic disaster is to be avoided. These facts serve at once to explain Germany's overtures and to make their rejection a foregone conclusion. The Allies are not likely to lay down their arms at Germany's invitation when the reward of their sacrifices appears to be in sight. If peace were to be proclaimed now it would merely be the prelude to further warfare. Germany would regard it as an armistice, and when she had recuperated her strength, she would return to the attack as soon as the circumstances seemed propitious. Though she is not likely to admit defeat without a desperate struggle which will prove very costly, to both sides nothing short of that admission will suffice.

Since the outbreak of the revolt in the south-west some 57,500 recruits have been enlisted throughout China.

The furniture and fittings of the German Club are advertised to be sold by public auction by Messrs. Hughes and Hough next Monday.

The total output of the Kailan Mining Administration's mines for the week ending 11th March, 1916, amounted to 55,309 tons and the sales to 56,733 tons.

The R.E. Entertainment Club are holding another of their popular whist drives and dances at the R.E. Theatre, Wellington Barracks, to-night. The invitations issued some time ago hold good.

The ladies of the Union Church Work Party have sent several parcels of shirts, socks, etc., to Lieut.-Colonel J. Vane Agnew, 2/2 Scottish Horse, War Office, London, by the English mail.

The final of the Football Challenge Shield Competition will be played on the ground of the Hongkong F.C. to-morrow afternoon between the Hongkong F.C. and the Royal Engineers. At the close the trophies and medals will be presented by Mrs. David Landale.

The death is announced at Brighton of Mrs. Innocent, widow of the Rev. John Innocent who was the pioneer of the English Methodist Mission. The deceased lady was for a long period closely associated with the life of Tientsin, and on her landing in Tientsin in June, 1861, she was the first European lady resident.

The Germans have a new source of revenue, viz., a gambling-house for Chinese, on a large scale, licensed at \$45 per month, situated on the Taku Road, south of the British Concession, says the *P. & T. Times*. The Austrians have opened up a number of opium houses in their Concession licensed at \$200 per month; also a gambling-house at \$5 per table, close to the Austrian market.

The fire brigade received a call to a Chinese restaurant in Wellington Street on Wednesday evening. It seems that the fire originated on the first floor, and when the brigade arrived the top portion of the building was a mass of flame. Much damage was done by both fire and water, but the extent of the damage is as yet unknown. The building was insured with the Lun Yick for \$1,500. No-one has been reported to be missing or injured.

A children's play is to be produced about the middle of next month at the Mount Austin Theatre in aid of The Veterans' Club. Founded on a play in a book of plays for children, it has been written up and added to by one of our most experienced playwrights, and will be produced by some of our most gifted children under experienced supervision. The dresses are being designed and made by local ladies, the scenery and properties are being carried out by local artists, and the dances are being arranged by some of our most capable ballet mistresses.

The Overseas Club have undertaken to maintain twenty beds in a special ward in Netley Hospital for the duration of the war, and the Hongkong branch of the Club has been asked to guarantee the upkeep of one or more of these beds at a cost of 25s each per annum. With this object in view an entertainment will be given at the Victoria Theatre on Thursday next, the 30th inst., when the programme will consist of special items by the Melbourne Company, selections by the Police band, and a series of new cinematograph films, including scenes from the war, "Charlie Chaplin's Night Out," etc. Seats can now be booked at Anderson's Music Store.

ALLEGED FALSE PRETENCES.

CHINESE INTERPRETER CHARGED.

In Mr. Wood's Court at the Magistracy yesterday a Chinese interpreter employed in the office of Messrs. Holmes and Heywood, solicitors, was charged with obtaining a sum of \$1,000 by alleged false pretences. The charge alleged that the man, who is named Lam Shui In, on February 7th, did falsely pretend to Lai Lau Sang, by means of an agreement, that certain property registered at the Land Office belonged to him, as a result of which he secured \$1,000, whereas the agreement contained no such statement.

Mr. Preston, who appeared to prosecute, said he wished to withdraw the charge, as it appeared there has been some misunderstanding between the parties. The plaintiff was a woman, and it seemed that she misunderstood the agreement which had been drawn up. The \$1,000 had been returned to her. Mr. Preston also suggested that the parties should go before the Captain Superintendent of Police, if Mr. Messer would agree, and that a man named Sham Li, who was concerned in the case should sign his name in Mr. Messer's office, the signature to be compared with that on a document which was in the possession of the Captain Superintendent. If the signature was the same as that in the possession of Mr. Messer he would withdraw the charge.

Mr. Goldring, (who appeared for Mr. Heywood) said that Mr. Heywood wished it to be stated that he knew nothing about his interpreter having done what was alleged, except that on a certain day he (Mr. Heywood) was asked to test two signatures, and defendant told him that it was only some family affairs.

The case was adjourned for Mr. Preston's suggestion to be carried out.

THE WAR.

GERMANY SEEKING PEACE.

CALM IN THE WEST.

RUSSIAN SUCCESSES.

ZEEBRUGGE A HUGE SCRAP-HEAP.

GERMANY TO PREVENT ALL TRADE WITH UNITED KINGDOM.

LAMENTABLE MESOPOTAMIA HAPPENING.

POST-WAR TRADE PROBLEMS.

FRANCO-BELGIAN FRONT.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

ZEEBRUGGE A HUGE SCRAP-HEAP.

RESULT OF ALLIED AIR-RAID.

LONDON, March 23rd.
A telegram from Rotterdam states that the only things at Zeebrugge to escape the Allied air bombs were two submarines which were submerged in dock. Three torpedo boats fled to the sea and manœuvred in the minefield, but the airmen forced them further out, only to be chased by British destroyers. Zeebrugge is now a huge scrap-heap.

LATER.

Numerous wounded marines have arrived at Bruges from Zeebrugge. Some patrol boats as well as destroyers fled from Zeebrugge to avoid bombardment. A German submarine was seen to be hugging the Dutch coast, and later a destroyer towed another into Zeebrugge.

GERMANS AFRAID TO ATTACK.

PARIS, March 22nd.

To-day's communiqué states:—
There has been grenade fighting in Argonne.

A violent bombardment has continued on the left bank of the Meuse in the region of Malincourt, but the Germans did not dare to attack in force.

Our artillery kept up an intermittent bombardment west of the Meuse, and elsewhere.

BRITISH RAID ENEMY TRENCHES.

LONDON, March 22nd.

A communiqué says that last night the British made a small raid on hostile trenches near Mauquissart, accounting for a score of the enemy.

Early this morning the enemy attacked and entered a small post on the Somme, but were driven out, leaving on officer prisoner and two dead.

LIVELY ARTILLERY DUEL.

PARIS, March 22nd.
4.20 p.m.

A communiqué states:—West of the Meuse there has been a most lively artillery duel at Malancourt, Isnes and Hill 304. It was particularly violent at Haucourt Hill, while east of the Meuse the bombardment was intense at Vaux and Damloup. There has been no infantry action.

RUSSIAN FRONT.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

THE DVINSK REGION. ENEMY ADVANCED LINE CAPTURED.

PETROGRAD, March 22nd.

A communiqué states that after more fighting the Russians south of Dvinsk carried the enemy's advanced line.

PROGRESS IN ARMENIA.

PETROGRAD, March 22nd.

A communiqué mentions that the Russian troops in the Caucasus have advanced a few miles westwards.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

RUSSIANS AWAITING ORDERS.

ADMIRATION OF FRENCH DEFENCE OF VERDUN.

PARIS, March 22nd.

General Alexieff, the Russian Generalissimo, on behalf of the Tsar, has telegraphed to General Joffre expressing his Majesty's warmest admiration of the defence of Verdun. The Tsar, the message says, is confident that the French Army will bring the savage enemy to his knees.

General Alexieff adds: "The Russian Army merely awaits orders to engage the common enemy."

RUSSIAN SUCCESS IN GALICIA.

PETROGRAD, March 22nd.

A communiqué states that in carrying the bridgehead at Michaleze the Russians captured two guns.

Most of the defenders of the bridgehead were killed in hand-to-hand fighting.

NAVAL ACTIVITIES.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GERMANY'S SEA POLICY.

TO PREVENT ALL TRADE.

AMSTERDAM, March 23rd.

It is reported that Herr Ballin has declared that Germany's policy is to prevent all traffic between the United Kingdom and European countries, neutral or not.

THE "TUBANTIA" OUTRAGE.

THE HAGUE, March 23rd.

An official announcement states that Dutch representations to Berlin regarding the Tubantia outrage were forestalled by a declaration by the German Minister at The Hague.

GENERAL.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

POSITION OF MARRIED MEN.

RESERVED OCCUPATIONS REDUCED.

LONDON, March 22nd.

In the Army Votes, the position of the married men is given further attention. The reserved occupations have been largely reduced, and it has been decided that men below certain ages, varying from 25 to 35, in different trades, must be released. Also, a greater demand will be justly made from agriculture. These decisions are applicable immediately, and will greatly affect the numbers available. The provisions of the Service Act for the avoidance of industrial compulsion are leaving too wide gaps, and a remedy is being considered.

THE MEXICAN REVOLUTION.

MYSTERY OF TWO AEROPLANES.

COLUMBUS, March 23rd.

There is no news of the American anti-Villa expedition, owing to the failure of the wireless, and the cutting of the telegraphs.

Two aeroplanes which were accompanying the expedition have not arrived, and they have possibly been lost in the desert.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

GERMANY SEEKING PEACE.

SOME OBVIOUS "FEELERS."

NEW YORK, March 22nd.

The Washington correspondent of the *Evening Post* states that Dr. Bethmann-Hollweg recently requested Mr. Gerard, the United States Ambassador, not to leave Berlin on vacation.

He told him the terms on which Germany would be willing to end the war. These included withdrawal from Belgium and an indemnity from France.

Dr. Bethmann-Hollweg generally indicated a wish to return to the ante-bellum status.

He did not request the good offices of the United States, but Mr. Gerard deemed the conversation to be in the nature of a "feeler."

MESOPOTAMIA DIFFICULTIES.

THE BREAKDOWN IN HOSPITAL ARRANGEMENTS.

LONDON, March 23rd.

In the House of Commons, Mr. Chamberlain expressed gratitude and paid a tribute to the bravery and endurance of the Indian and British troops in Mesopotamia. He said he considered that the transfer of the control of operations to the Imperial Government was already advantageous. He admitted the lamentable breakdown of the hospital arrangements, and thought it was inexcusable. The shortage of medical supplies was largely due to the enormous difficulties of river navigation. The Government sought everywhere for shallow-draught vessels, some of which were lost at sea. Neither the Imperial Government nor the Raj were satisfied, but he hoped that the measures taken had already effected an improvement.

Mr. Hobhouse referred to Mr. Chamberlain's "strong words," and expressed the hope that the responsibility for the breakdown would be placed on the proper shoulders.

Mr. Chamberlain, in reply, begged the House to keep the matter open until the facts were officially known regarding the breakdown and the responsibility.

INVALIDED INDIAN OFFICERS.

QUESTION OF RATES OF PAY.

LONDON, March 23rd.

In the House of Commons, Mr. MacNeill suggested that it was a great injustice that British officers from India who were invalided to England received Indian rates of pay only for three months.

Mr. Forster said that the decision to that effect was a concession which was made after full consultation with the Raj.

KING INSPECTS MOTOR AMBULANCES.

LONDON, March 23rd.

The King, at Buckingham Palace, inspected twenty motor ambulances out of the fifty which the Cinematograph Trades' Association are presenting to the Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John for use in Mesopotamia.

GENERAL CADORNA IN LONDON.

LONDON, March 22nd.

General Cadorna has arrived in London. He was welcomed by Lord Kitchener, Sir John French and others. General Cadorna was given an ovation by large crowds, which included many Italians. He will be received by His Majesty the King.

MYSTERIOUS TEXAS FIRE.

LONDON, March 23rd.

A mysterious fire at Paris (Texas) caused damage to the extent of \$3,000,000.

CENTRAL TRIBUNAL.

LONDON, March 23rd.

Lord Sydenham and Sir R. W. Carlyle have been made members of the Central Tribunal.

[THROUGH REUTER'S AGENCY.]

POST-WAR TRADE COMPETITION.

SAFEGUARDING IMPORTANT INDUSTRIES.

LONDON, March 22nd.

Mr. Runciman is appointing small committees to consider measures for safeguarding the post-war position of important British industries in relation to international competition. Two have already been appointed; for iron, steel and engineering, with Sir Clarendon Hyde as Chairman, Mr. Balfour being one of the members; and for shipping and ship-building, with Sir J. Booth as Chairman. The arrangements for the textile industry will be announced shortly.

CHINESE TELEGRAMS.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

PRESIDENT AND THE REVOLUTION.

DUE TO MISUNDERSTANDINGS.

PEKING, March 23rd.

The President has issued a long mandate stating that the present troubles have arisen through misunderstandings. He cancels the mandates regarding a Monarchy, and orders the memorials and documents respecting the same to be returned to the acting Lifeymen and destroyed.

SACRIFICES TO WAR GODS.

PEKING, March 23rd.

The Spring sacrifices to the War Gods were performed this morning by the Minister of War.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

PEKING, March 23rd.

Lu Chen-hsiang resigns his portfolio as Secretary of State, and Hsu Shih-chang resumes this position.

LIFE IN BERLIN.

"ANXIOUS FOR PEACE."

A representative of the Press Association has had an interview with a lady long resident in Berlin, who has just arrived at her husband's home in Hertfordshire. Of Russian extraction, but to all intents and purposes a Berliner, she went to England to join her husband, who, as the Berlin representative of a big London house, was interested early in the war, and was released and sent back to England some time since.

Asked about the views of Berlin residents as to the outcome of the war, the lady replied: "Some of them think Germany will win, but then the censorship is very rigid, and they have not much reliable material to judge by. It is not possible to fool all the people all the time, and there is a large proportion, a growing proportion I think, which does not look for a conclusive result. I have failed to find evidence of any apprehension that Germany will be beaten, but again, how can the people judge? They can only learn what the authorities wish them to learn."

Asked if there was real severity in Berlin, and if things were as bad there as some reports represented, she said: "They are bad—very bad—and are getting worse. Meat, eggs, cheese, butter, and fat of all kinds are very, very dear, but I rather think the trouble is almost as much due to actual shortage. When traders have liberty of action, they sell at famine prices, and even in times of scarcity it is no uncommon thing to find perishable provisions spoiling because only the very wealthy can command the prices demanded. I have personal experience of a housewife paying the equivalent of 2s. 6d. for a pound of lard. It is this squeezing of the populace that exasperates them so, and has led to disorders bordering on rioting."

"Yes, I have heard of recent food riots in Berlin, and of military interference and the shooting down of the demonstrators. That the riots have occurred is undoubtedly, but as to whether the repressive measures have been so drastic I cannot say of my own knowledge. If they have, the papers would not be allowed to publish the facts. The censorship is stringent, out of all comparison with that which you people in England complain of so bitterly about. Some commodities, such as petrol, are absolutely unobtainable by the general public."

"Are the citizens of Berlin enthusiastic about the war, or not?" asked the interviewer.

"Emphatically they are not," was the reply. "They are tired of it all—fed up, as you say—and keenly anxious for peace. But people hardly dare open their mouths to express this view, and you may guess the strength of their feeling in the matter when I tell you that I recently heard a soldier—a Prussian soldier, mind you—ask a newby in the hearing of several people: 'Is there any news in your paper about peace?'"

"No," replied the lad. "Then get along with you; if there is no talk of peace, nothing else matters." Then anyone in a public place, and particularly a soldier, dare say such a thing as that tells eloquently of the undercurrent of public feeling. The people of Berlin, and doubtless the people of Germany as a whole, are tired of the war, with all its horrors and privations. They want peace, and nothing else matters."

HONGKONG TO FRANCE.

INTERESTING EXPERIENCES OF WELL-KNOWN LOCAL MAN.

AN AMUSING TRIP TO IRELAND.

A recent issue of the *Belfast Evening Standard* contained the following, with a photograph of the subject of the article:—

"It's a long, long way from Hongkong to the fighting line in France, but that is the big journey that Mr. Henry E. Victor (whose photo is here reproduced) made in answer to the call of King and country. In doing so he relinquished an important journalistic and shorthand-writing business to undertake the hardships of the trenches and accept the soldier's humble pay. Corporal Victor, who returned to the front on Wednesday night, after spending a few days' leave in Belfast and Carrickfergus, has had ten months' arduous work in the trenches with the gallant 2nd Middlesex Regiment (The 'Diehards'). When he arrived in England, after a six weeks' voyage in a troopship, he had no particular regiment in view, but when he saw the designation 'Diehards' on the Middlesex's recruiting poster it appealed to him, and he entered their ranks forthwith. A good part of the time on ship-board was spent in drill, so that he was no novice when he joined the regiment, and was soon in readiness to go to the fighting line. Mr. Victor is a son of Mr. George Victor, whom many in Belfast and district will remember as a former superintendent of the waterworks at Woodburn. His father is still resident in Melmore, where he emigrated when his son was two years of age. The climate did not agree with the latter, and he took up his residence in Hongkong. For seven years he was on the literary staff of the *Hongkong Daily Press*, and he served for a similar period on the Colonial Hansard Staff.

His patriotism prompted him to return to the Motherland and assist to fight her cause. During his few days' leave Mr. Victor was the guest at Carrickfergus of his uncle, Mr. Henry Blackburne, solicitor."

Mr. Victor has also written a very interesting letter to a local friend, describing his trip to Ireland, and several amusing war happenings. He says, among other things:—

"I have been home, my boy, home to Old Ireland, and I received a thorough Irish welcome, and one which will never be forgotten. Let me try to tell you of the trip. To begin with, I dodged a ten mile tramp from the trenches to our transport by getting an unexpected lift. After a spell at the transport, I walked some four miles to the nearest rail-head and left by train at 1.45 a.m. Arrived at Boulogne somewhere between 8 and 9 a.m., boarded steamer sometime later and brought up in — at about 1 p.m. As the London train steamed out of Folkestone the girls of that town made us feel heroes indeed. Doors were flung open and windows thrown up, and handkerchiefs, dishcloths, etc., fluttered in welcome. Even the ladies' out walking semaphore words of welcome in an unknown code after the departing train. Victoria Station, London, in due course. A rush for the money-changing stall on the station, a struggle, and my little roll of French notes was converted into 25 odd, a small enough sum in the old days, but a big one for a man in khaki. Was hurrying off the station when a Soldier's Guide asked me if I had had any refreshments. I told him I had not, and said I did not want any. As well try to tell the sea to stop flowing. I had to go and he attended to by some of the girls who conceived it to be their duty to 'feed returning Tommies. Then I got away. Had a much-needed bath in a Y.M.C.A. hut, and within an hour was aboard a train at Euston and off to Stranraer, an all night trip again. My fellow travellers were a Scotch Guard from the front, a couple of civilians, and a man of the R.A.M.C., who had not long donned the khaki. I might mention that the Guard and yours truly were well spattered with the mud of Flanders, unshaven and unwashed, while the R.A.M.C. man was spick and span. A 'booby' Jack whose hat had been thrown out of a carriage window, intruded in our carriage, and after introducing himself in breezy sailor fashion, proceeded to size us up. The result was that the R.A.M.C. boy was made the butt of the trip. He went out to shave and Jack wanted to know if we shaved in the trenches. He came back and 'khaki'd' his belt, and again Jack asked if we did such things in the trenches, and appeared to amuse the 'civvy.' At length he asked the 'poulitice walloper' if he had been in

GERMANY'S TASKS IN CHINA.

A GERMAN HONGKONG NEEDED.

The *Frankfurter Zeitung* draws attention to two treaties dealing with the problem of Germany's tasks in China after the war, that have just been published in Berlin. It explains that the vast changes produced in the East indirectly by the war render it imperative necessary for Germany to place its economic policy in China on an entirely new basis. It points out that Japan is not content to remain a great Power, but is determined to become a world Power, and that India does not intend to continue to be "England's docile, milch cow." This, the journal states, means relief to the non-British world, while the fact that Japan's mission will be on the seas enables China to revive politically and economically. In view of these coming developments, the *Frankfurter Zeitung* declares, Germany must at once ensure for itself the possibility to guarantee a future in Eastern Asia. The chief object of Germany's attention must, it says, be the railway concessions in China. Hitherto, it remarks, Germany has always been defeated by the Belgian-Russian-French group and by England and Japan, but it adds, the war provides the opportunity to rearrange the system of partition. Herr von Dewall, it observes, draws the attention of Germany in his pamphlet to the northern Chinese East to West Railway, a Bogian concession, which will one day be the Chinese section of a gigantic world-railway connecting modern Europe with ancient China. Belgium's financial and industrial power is broken, the *Frankfurter Zeitung* proclaims, and it declares that almost the same can be said of France. Here, therefore, it says, is an opportunity for Germany to jump into the breach, and thus to secure the share to which it is entitled in the industrial development of China. The *Frankfurter Zeitung* points out that other openings will soon present themselves, that Germany's policy must be firstly to obtain a greater interest in Chinese Railway Loans, but especially, for this is the most important thing in China, to obtain concessions.

Herr von Dewall explains in his pamphlet other means by which Germany can secure a greater share of the European trade with China, and insists that every effort must be made to prevent the Chinese export trade to Germany from passing through English hands. He writes: "The efforts of our enemies to ruin the German trade with China during the war have for the most part miscarried, though considerable mischief has been done. The result of the experience is the demand that Hongkong shall cease to be the central station of German trade in South China. We wish to have our own commercial centre, and with this object in view we need a German settlement on the South Chinese coast." The *Frankfurter Zeitung* remarks in conclusion: "The book is a gratifying sign that even during the war Germany is preparing with vigour and vivacity for the works of peace. We recommend it not only to all private persons who are interested in trade with China, but also to the Government, whose business and duty it is to pave the way by means of the Imperial policy for the German trade in China."

NEW LAW FOR ZEPPELINS.

RIGHT TO LAND ON NEUTRAL SOIL.

The German Press has not lost much time inventing a new doctrine of international law which would save German airships from the possibility of disaster when they cruise over neutral territory. As in so many other cases, the *Deutsche Tageszeitung* is the pioneer.

Discussing the loss of the *L19*, which is ascribed to Dutch gun fire, the *Tageszeitung* argues that the airship cannot have been lost in a fog, because a fog it must climb as high as possible, and that it must, therefore, have been cruising so low as to be hit by gunfire only because it had been injured and the pilot intended to land for the carrying out of repairs. The writer then maintains that a damaged airship has just as much right to take refuge on neutral soil as a damaged warship has a right to spend a certain time in a neutral port, and he lays it down as a "necessity" that the "rights" of aircraft, shall now be definitely determined and that the troops defending neutral territory shall be given "precise instructions and orders."

Needless to say, this doctrine is hailed with delight by many German writers. Even the *Frankfurter Zeitung* describes the matter as "important, and worthy of consideration." The *Berliner Tageblatt* is the subject of much abuse because it remarked that the Dutch were entirely justified in bringing down the Zeppelin.

France. Because he said he expected to go soon Jack got annoyed, and before anyone realised what had happened was 'sailing into him.' We had to separate the pair, and the trouble ended when Jack was transferred to another carriage.

"I had just entered the Carrick train when a pretty little Colleen came to a window, and handed me a green bordered milk handkerchief with the words: 'This is for you, soldier. I thanked her suitably, thinking, as the train steamed out of the station, that it was an auspicious welcome to the Green Isle. Carrick and friends and andreamed of welcomes, Belfast and joy. For a week, my boy, I lived. No further explanation of this part of the trip is necessary."

"Now—the trenches again. The blighters before us to be blighted before I can return to old H.K. I hope, however, that we may hit them up soon, and finish with *safer bread* for all. Of course, seeing the end is all a chance. . . . but I am hoping to be in at the finish and to again rejoice with you and to celebrate with old friends in H.K."

"I had a day in London on the way back and spent it with a few of the gallant Australian and Maori lads, to whom I will take off my hat every time. They went through far more than ever we have in France. They are *hon* boys, and the time passed all too quickly."



HOW THIN PEOPLE CAN PUT ON FLESH.

A New Discovery.

Thin men and women—that big, hearty, filling dinner you ate last night. What became of all the fat-producing nourishment it contained? You haven't gained in weight one ounce. That food passed from your body like unburned coal through an open grate. The material was there, but your food doesn't work and stick, and the plain truth is you hardly get enough nourishment, of assimilation, are sadly out of gear and need reconstruction.

Cut out the foolish foods and funny savoury diets. Omit the flesh cream rub-ons. Cut out everything but the meals you are eating now and eat with every one of those two Sargol tablets. In two weeks note the difference. Five to eight good solid pounds of healthy, "stay there" fat should be the net result. Sargol charges your weak, stagnant blood corpuscles—gives the blood with your food and prepares it for the blood in easily assimilated form. Thin people gain all the way from 10 to 25 pounds a month while taking Sargol, and the new flesh stays put. Sargol tablets are a scientific combination of six of the best flesh-producing elements known to chemistry. They come 40 tablets to a package, are pleasant, harmless and inexpensive, and A. S. Watson & Co., Victoria, it in stock.

"Don't Worry—Take Sargol."

Campbell Palmer & Co.
The Wine Merchants of the East

NAPIER
JOHNSTONE'S
"SQUARE BOTTLE"
WHISKY.

UNVARIED FOR OVER
150 YEARS.
THE SAME TO-DAY AS IN
1745.
BEWARE OF
IMITATIONS.

SOLE AGENTS IN HONGKONG:
LANE, CRAWFORD & CO.,
and from ALL WINE MERCHANTS.

Vitafer
The All-British Tonic Food

Fortifies the System against disease, restores the tissues after illness, and invigorates without reaction.

EVERY BEETLE
EVERY BUG

is killed
once "Keating's" comes
into thorough contact
with it.

Sold in Tins only.
The unrivalled way to
kill beetles, bugs and all
household insects is to

Use
KEATING'S
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CHAPOTEAU'S
MORRHUOL

Superior to Emulsions or Cod Liver Oil.

Each tiny Morrhual capsule represents the medicinal value of a teaspoonful of oil.

Recommended at the Paris Academy of Medicine, for loss of appetite and flesh, to patients with consumptive tendencies.

Sold in bottles of 100 Capsules.
Sold by all Chemists.

WEATHER REPORT.

On the 23rd at 11.20 a.m.—The anti-cyclone has strengthened. It is nearly stationary. The depression has deepened considerably. It is now central to the south of Hokkaido.

The depression gradient between Hokkaido and China is very steep.

Pressure has increased moderately over S. China, and slightly over Indo-China and the Philippines.

Fresh monsoon may be expected along the east coast of China, and over the N. China Sea.

Hongkong rainfall for the 24 hours ending at 10 a.m. to-day, 0.00 inches.

The forecast for the 24 hours ending at noon to-day is as follows—

Direction.	Forecast.
Roughness & Neighbourhood	N.E. to E. winds, fresh; cloudy.
Formosa Channel	N.E. winds, strong.
South Coast of China between Hongkong and Lamooche	The same as No. 1.
South coast of China between Hongkong and Hainan	The same as No. 1.

HONGKONG TIDE TABLE.

From 24th to 30th March, 1916.

Day & Night	High Water	Low Water
Mon. 24	h. m. 11.46 a. 4.9	h. m. 5.22 a. 3.1
Tues. 25	h. m. 11.46 a. 4.9	h. m. 5.22 a. 3.1
Wed. 26	h. m. 11.46 a. 4.9	h. m. 5.22 a. 3.1
Thurs. 27	h. m. 11.46 a. 4.9	h. m. 5.22 a. 3.1
Fri. 28	h. m. 11.46 a. 4.9	h. m. 5.22 a. 3.1
Sat. 29	h. m. 11.46 a. 4.9	h. m. 5.22 a. 3.1
Sun. 30	h. m. 11.46 a. 4.9	h. m. 5.22 a. 3.1

FORTHCOMING EVENTS.

Saturday, 25th March—
11.30 a.m.—Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Meeting of Shareholders.
11.45 a.m.—Hongkong Rope Manufacturing Co., Ltd., Extraordinary General Meeting.

Monday, 27th March—
5.30 p.m.—Hongkong Club, Thirtieth Yearly General Meeting.

Tuesday, 28th March—
11.30 a.m.—Hongkong Ice Co., Ltd., Meeting of Shareholders.
Noon—Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd., Meeting of Shareholders.
4 p.m.—Hongkong General Chamber of Commerce, Annual Meeting in the Chamber of Commerce Room.

Wednesday, 29th March—
11.30 a.m.—China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd., Meeting of Shareholders.

Thursday, 30th March—
8.30 p.m.—Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong, Annual General Meeting in the Chamber of Commerce Room.
4 p.m.—Association of Exporters and Dealers of Hongkong, Extraordinary General Meeting in the Chamber of Commerce Room.
9.15 p.m.—Bandman Opera & Comedy Co., at the Theatre Royal.—To-Night's the Night.

Friday, 31st March—
11.30 a.m.—Linson Sugar Refining Co., Ltd., Meeting of Shareholders.
11.30 a.m.—Linson Sugar Refining Co., Ltd., Extraordinary General Meeting.

Monday, 3rd April—
Noon—Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., Yearly Meeting of Shareholders.

Tuesday, 4th April—
Guthrie & Co., Rubber Estates, Ltd., Annual Meeting of Shareholders.

ORGANISED THRIFT.

A WAR SAVINGS BOARD.

MEMORIAL TO PREMIER.

An influentially signed memorial has been presented to the Prime Minister, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer, asking them "to bring to the attention of the Cabinet the urgent necessity of increasing taxation, of enforcing retrenchment and economy in official and municipal expenditure, and of encouraging, so far as may be practicable, organised thrift in all classes alike," and suggesting the appointment of a strong official War Savings Board. Mr. Asquith and Mr. McKenna have further been asked to receive a deputation on the subject of the memorial, which is in the following terms—

We, the undersigned memorialists, respectfully ask you and your colleagues to bring to the attention of the Cabinet the urgent necessity of increasing taxation, of enforcing retrenchment and economy in official and municipal expenditure, and of encouraging, so far as may be practicable, organised thrift in all classes alike.

We believe that such a course is rendered necessary by the present grave condition of national finances and the enormous and inevitable expenditure which we are incurring day by day. We consider that if the way is to be brought to a successful conclusion all unnecessary expenditure must be kept within rigid limits, and much larger savings will have to be made both by public bodies and private individuals than have hitherto been effected.

We are convinced that these objects cannot be attained without heavy additional taxation and authoritative guidance from His Majesty's Government.

We venture, further, to suggest for your consideration—

(1.)—That a strong official War Savings Board be constituted, presided over by a President, who will speak with authority and command the attention of the nation.

(2.)—That this Board should lay down regulations for enforcing economy on Government departments and on public authorities during the period of the war.

(3.)—That this Board, as some other representative body (including among its members not only official but expert financiers and practical workers), should at once advise and report on the best methods of advising and encouraging domestic thrift.

It should get into touch with the local bodies throughout the country, give advice, make suggestions, and issue notices to the general public.

(4.)—That any steps your Government may see fit to take in these matters should be announced without delay.

The memorial is signed by an imposing array of spiritual and temporal peers, members of Parliament, Church dignitaries, and bankers and business men.

At the reopening of Parliament last month Mr. Asquith made emphatic references to the finance of the war. Even if the war had stopped on January 1st last, he said, our outstanding liabilities then were so gigantic that they would involve a serious strain on the resources of this country for a generation. His estimate last November that the war was costing us five millions sterling a day had been nearly realized; that, multiplied by the number of days in the year, gave a sum which staggered the imagination.

There were only two ways of meeting that burden, by large additions to taxation and before many weeks passed the Chancellor of the Exchequer would propose that course—and by maintaining our credit. To maintain our credit we must keep up our productive activity and our exports, we must cut down our unnecessary imports and our consumption of luxuries, and we must reduce expenditure not only in the Government Departments but in individual households.

REPUBLICAN PROTEST.

MR. STERLING'S RESOLUTION IN THE SENATE.

A resolution declaring that the Senate is anxiously concerned owing to the German Admiral's order to sink armed merchantmen without warning was introduced to-day by Senator Sterling (Republican). The resolution asserts that the United States and other neutrals should not acquiesce in Germany's action, and declares that the order is in contravention of long recognized neutral rights.—*Reuter.*

TRADING WITH THE ENEMY.

HEAVY PENALTIES IMPOSED ON FOWNES PARTNERS.

JUDGE ON "TREACHERY."

William Fownes Ridden was sentenced to 12 months' imprisonment. Stanley Fownes Ridden to four months' imprisonment, and William Gardner Ridden was fined \$500 by Mr. Justice Low at the Old Bailey, for trading with the enemy. The terms of imprisonment are to be served in the second division.

The defendants, on the advice of their counsel, Mr. Gordon Howart, pleaded guilty.

In his address on their behalf, Mr. Howart emphasised the fact that there was no question of bringing German goods into England. "I don't think," he added, "there has been another case like this, and I trust there will not be another. These gentlemen, representing this great and old firm, and themselves, in this melancholy and tragic position. When the counsel's defence returned from his homecoming he found, as he thought, that all matters were correct, whereas the firm had been committed to a particular course of action." The defendants now thoroughly appreciated that what they had done was contrary to law, although they believed at the time that they were animated with proper intentions. They profoundly and sincerely regretted the course to which they committed themselves.

JUDGE'S SPEECH TO ACCUSED.

Addressing the defendants, the judge said:—

"You are principals in a great firm—one of those firms which in the exigencies of modern trade have thought it right to set up factories in various countries. It is just that type of firm—and I say it as a warning to others—which renders the enforcement of the law in these matters so difficult, and the evasion of it so comparatively easy."

"You had a business established in New York, which was merely a branch of the business here. The goods purchased for that branch had to be paid for here; and the profits had to be remitted here; and for all practical and business purposes the trade carried on in New York was as much carried on in this country as if the whole of the establishment had been here."

"It has been urged that I am to give some different consideration to this case because of the position and extent of the operations of your firm. It seems to me that it is just that matter which renders this case such a grave one, because if persons of the 'commercial' distinction and great dealings like yourselves are caught as you have been caught, infringing legislation, and if they are not dealt with severely, how is it possible for the law to deal with small and comparatively obscure persons who break it?"

CONDEMNING LETTER.

"You have traded with the enemy. Trading with the enemy at the present time is merely a species of treachery, and I have to deal with it accordingly. With regard to the senior of the defendants, William Gardner Ridden, I take into account his age, 71 years, and the fact that the part he took in this business was comparatively small. The sentence is that he pay a fine of \$500, and that he remains in custody until that amount is paid."

"With regard to you, William Fownes Ridden, there is no question that your position is extremely aggravated by the letter you wrote. [The letter to New York suggesting that German goods might be consigned to Murphy—leaving us to take them over.] Reading that letter in the light of common sense, it is impossible to say that you entered upon this transaction with any other view than the view, if possible, of getting goods from Germany, and if possible, paying for them. There is no other view that one can take of the suggestions made in that letter."

"It is true that persons in New York, who, I am told, are relatives of yours, were guided by a higher sense of propriety and probity than you were, and to use their own expression they declined to be parties to what they called 'Beating the devil around the bush,' showing clearly what they thought of these suggestions. The sentence I feel bound to pass upon a man of your position, detected and convicted on his own confession of such an offence, is that you be imprisoned in the second division for 12 calendar months."

WARNING TO BUSINESS MEN.

"With regard to you, Stanley Fownes Ridden, I cannot depart from the rule that we must show all and sundry engaged in business that these offences cannot be regarded with them a certain amount of discretion. In your case the facts do not appear to me to demand so severe a punishment as the other defendant, but you must be imprisoned in the second division for four months. I order that you jointly and severally pay the costs of this prosecution."

The defendants, who seemed overwhelmed at the sentences, then left the dock.

THE SALONIKA BASE.

A British Press correspondent at Salonika, dealing with the comments on the uselessness and inactivity of the large force there, expresses the opinion that if the enemy do not attack, the Allied War Council will not prohibit General Sarrail from taking the offensive. This will require the reorganisation of the force, and an adequate supply of mountain artillery and pack transport. Such reorganisation is well under way where it is necessary, and three-quarters of the French force is already so organised. The correspondent admits the difficulties of a frontal attack on an entrenched enemy in a mountainous country, but is of opinion that General Sarrail, an old Alpine officer, is able to estimate them. It is still conceivable that political and other considerations will lead the enemy to attack, as a forlorn hope; but they must cross seven miles of swamp, and huge wire entanglements before reaching the tiers of trenches on the slopes of the hills. It is almost possible for the enemy to bring up heavy guns or to find suitable employment for them if they were brought.

SEA POWER.

CITY MEETING DEMANDS A REAL BLOCKADE.

A crowded City meeting held at the Cannon-street Hotel on February 14th unanimously passed a resolution expressing "grave alarm" at "the enormous quantities of commodities which are reaching the enemy through the North Sea," and calling on the Government "to give our Navy freedom to make a fuller and more effective use of our sea power in the war."

Lord Devonport was in the chair, and among those present were Mr. T. Gibson Bowles, Mr. A. Shirley Bena, M.P., Lord Hensley, Colonel Yate, M.P., Sir J. D. Rees, M.P., Sir R. Cooper, M.P., Mr. H. Nield, M.P., and Sir Roper Parkinson.

Letters expressing regret at inability to attend the meeting were read from Lord Beresford (whose letter has already been published in *The Times*), Lord Nunburnholme, and Lord Abernethy, who wrote:—"I am quite satisfied that Lord Devonport is justified in his facts and his conclusions, and I earnestly hope that no considerations of sentiment will stand in the way of stopping these supplies of ore and other necessities going through Holland, Denmark, or Sweden. The matter is far too serious to be trifled with any longer, and my knowledge of what goes on in steel and iron trades intensifies my convictions on this subject."

LORD DEVONPORT'S FIGURES.

The Chairman said that if any evidence were necessary as to the deep feeling of the nation that the Government were not utilizing to their full power the resources that were available, it was supplied by the meeting. There had for some time been a growing feeling that we were not maintaining—indeed, that we had not established—a thorough blockade, such as the strength of our sea-power justified and having regard to our legitimate legal rights under international law. (Cheers.) The object of the meeting was to make the Government understand, in no hostile sense, but in a helpful way, that the nation was determined that nothing should bar or impair our progress towards the successful ending of the war, so far as matters were under our own control. The maintenance of an effective blockade was essentially under our own control. The British Fleet and absolute and supreme command of the seas. Were we utilizing to the full the power that command gave us (cries of "No.") For were we utilizing it with feebleness, nervelessness, and no apparent comprehension of what this power meant, and what it could achieve?

If we exercised our power to the full we should be depriving Germany, and ought to have been depriving Germany for the last year or more of the essentials of life, and of the essentials of trade, without which no nation that was dependent upon the outside world could long sustain a resistance. Since the issue of the Orders in Council, had commodities been prevented from going into Germany? (Cries of "No.") He thought it might safely be said that neutrals had been having the time of their lives. (Laughter and cheers.) The net result of the "rationing arrangements" had been that neutrals had been able to carry on a lucrative trade with Germany very much to our detriment. (Cheers.) There was now a feeling in this country, which would not allow itself to be suppressed (cheers), that the blockade must be tightened and the Fleet given the power which it alone knew how to exercise. (Cheers.) In a formal which he accepted Sir E. Grey had said that a blockade meant discrimination, not stopping everything, but stopping what was destined for the enemy. Sir E. Grey said that that was being done. (Cries of "No.") Also that no ships were going through to German ports. Neither statement was in accord with the facts.

FOREIGN OFFICE EXCUSES.

During the 17 months of the war up to the end of December in round figures 1,500,000 tons of ore had been allowed to pass into Rotterdam, and about 300 ships were engaged in the transportation of these cargoes, mainly coming from Sweden and Norway. There was no secret about the destination of the ore. It was transhipped into barges, some of which had a carrying capacity of 2,000 tons, carried up the Rhine, and went to Krupp's. There it was used to make bombs, artillery, quick-firers, and other weapons which were brought to bear against our brave fellows in the field. (Cries of "Shame.") He raised the question in the House of Lords three weeks ago and he got no reply except that his figures were questioned. He had no misgiving about making good his figures.

The Foreign Office had recently said there were grave difficulties from a naval point of view in intercepting cargoes of iron ore from Sweden to Holland. From a casual observation dropped by the Duke of Devonshire in the House of Lords he understood that to mean that these ships reached Holland without leaving territorial waters, so that our warships could not interfere with them. But a study of the map would show that a ship going from Baltic or even Atlantic ports, north of the North Sea, could not hug the shore during the whole voyage, so as to be out of the reach of the long arm of the British Navy. (Cheers.)

The Foreign Office had also in effect offered the amazing explanation that they were not convinced that these cargoes were going into Germany. (Laughter.) As recently as towards the end of January they said they were making inquiries of the British Minister at The Hague (a cry of "Bah!") whether any use could be made in Holland of the iron ore imported. (Laughter.) This was after 1,500,000 tons of iron ore had been imported into Holland. Many influential men in the City of London had informed the Government, what was going on and called upon them to stop it. The bulk of this ore, which went from Sweden and Norway mainly, was magnetic ore. Magnetic ore had never been declared absolute contraband. Why? It could be used to produce bombs, shells, artillery, and the steel rails which enabled the Germans to give mobility to their troops in the countries they conquered.

"TAKING THE GLOVES OFF."

He had a record of all the ships carrying iron ore that had gone into German ports both in the Baltic and the North Sea since May last. No fewer than 587 ships from Swedish and Norwegian ports had carried over two million tons of iron ore to German ports. One would have thought the

explanation would be that there were considerable naval difficulties in the Baltic. He believed there had been some, but the Government did not claim that. About a month ago Mr. Runciman (hissing) said our submarines had almost stopped the supply of ore which went from Sweden. During June, July, August, and September, nearly 500,000 tons per month were going direct from Swedish to German ports, in the Baltic and the North Sea. There had been a diminution since, but the traffic was not stopped. In January there was shipped from one Swedish port 68,000 tons of ore. During January and down to February 84,500 tons of ore had been carried into Rotterdam. Were they not entitled to ask whether the Government were going to take any steps to call the attention of neutrals to what, in his judgment, was an absolute breach of neutrality? It behoved the Government to see that this illicit traffic was no longer permitted to continue. (Cheers.) The British Navy had the power single-handed to ensure our winning and shortening the war. Only one thing was needed (a cry of "Turn out the Government") followed by loud cheering, and that was to leave the Navy to carry on its work with the gloves off. Then the smashing of the mailed fist would soon be an accomplished fact. (Cheers.)

MR. BOWLES' INDIGNMENT.

Mr. T. Gibson Bowles said they were there because, after 18 months of war, they were not satisfied with the way in which the war was being conducted. The speaker was stirred by the concessions made by Parliament was cowed by the concessions of the Press was gagged by the Censor. There was no more to be said out of the City of London, the ancient home and defender of free speech, where voice could be given to the disquiet, deep anxiety, and profound dissatisfaction of the country. (Cheers.) They were not there to make general reproaches against the Government, whom they would all support if they would conduct the war with ability, but they were there to point out definite misdoings with regard to the Fleet, to say where the fault lay, and to demand the remedy. Of the land he would say nothing, leaving the map to speak for itself. The air also spoke for itself, and would speak before long as to require an answer from the Government, which had never yet given it. It would speak as to demands that our defence against attack should be conducted with some plan, some coherence, and some energy. (Cheers.) Before we talked of reprisals against Berlin we must find out how to defend London.

From Sir Edward Grey's own speech on August 3rd, 1914, it was clear that he, Mr. Asquith, and Lord Halsbury became aware in 1906 of the possibility of war between France and Germany and that we might be drawn into it. They even made definite military arrangements for such a contingency in secret, without telling even their colleagues in the Cabinet (cries of "Traitors!"). and by their concealment made it impossible to make any due preparation. One of the three was occupied in keeping his party together and keeping himself at the head of it, with a dexterity which had never been equalled in party management; another, Mr. Asquith, was in the House of Commons, and, being all the time aware of the impending contingency of war, reduced the strength of the army by nearly 40,000 men. (Cries of "Traitor.") The third—Sir Edward Grey—was doing even worse, for he was engaged upon the insidious task of deliberately reducing the power of the Navy in action. In 1907 he had sent delegates to The Hague with instructions to abandon the principle of contraband of war, and to limit the right of search at sea, but the House of Lords, by destroying the Declaration of London, had saved the Navy. Upon these three men they should keep their eyes fixed.

HAMPERING THE FLEET.

Since the outbreak of war the whole effect of the action of the Foreign Office had been to hamper and shackle the Fleet in the performance of its duty. The kernel of the whole question was the capture of enemy goods and that was the very thing the Foreign Office would not allow. Properly, the Foreign Office had nothing to do with the Navy; actually, it had everything to do with it. It claimed to control the Navy, and the Admiralty, which should resist the claim, had acquiesced tamely and done the bidding in war of those who had failed in peace. The business of the Fleet was not to win victories but to distress the enemy by capture at sea, to cut off his sea trade, to diminish his material resources, and reduce him to the distress which compelled submission.

In this war the Fleet, straining in the leash, able and eager to do its work, had been confused and driven to despair by contradictory Proclamations and Orders in Council. But all the time the country had been fed with promises. Sometimes by the action of the Contraband Committee, sometimes by the action of the Cabinet, most of the ships which had been captured by the Navy—had been released in violation of the Order in Council, without examination by the Prize Court. Such action rendered any blockade wholly ineffectual. Some expedients had been suggested by the Foreign Office for tightening the blockade. What wanted tightening was Sir Edward Grey. (Cheers.)

All these things could not but suggest that there was a set purpose to treat the enemy with tenderness and to irritate the neutral. Sir Edward Grey said that if the detained ships had all been put into the Prize Court, we and our Allies would have collapsed under the general resentment of the whole world. That was but the excuse for the Foreign Office failures and blunders. Germany had sunk neutral ships by the hundred and murdered neutral crews, but not a voice had been raised to protest, except the beating of ice in America, which declared that the United States were "too proud to fight." If we treated neutrals and not the enemy tenderly, and above all impartially, we need fear none of them.

To Sir Edward Grey, the great failure—honest in purpose, yet failing because he had not the sagacity to realize the true quality of his acts or that he was the faustical instrument of men more designing and less honourable than himself—he would give the advice to retire into private life while there was yet time.

Mr. A. Shirley Bena, M.P., said that if ships carrying contraband were liable to seizure, neutrals would not risk their ships. We were out to win the war and must take risks. (Cheers.)

GERMANY'S NEW PLEA FOR
PIRACY.

GUNS IN LINERS.

President Wilson's diplomatic victory in the controversy between the United States and Germany on the sinking of the *Lusitania* was no sooner announced than Germany put forward another plea to allow her submarines to continue their piracy. She presented a Memorandum to the representatives of the neutral Powers at Berlin in complaint of the perfectly legitimate and long-practised right of our merchantmen to carry guns for defence against attack.

The argument used to justify a threatened outbreak of submarine warfare is that British merchant vessels have been armed to attack German submarines, and have done so.

In these circumstances Germany declares that she will treat all armed merchantmen as belligerent ships—that is, attack them at sight and without warning, as she did before the attack on the *Lusitania*, not to sail in them.

Germany has thus raised again the whole question of submarine warfare as affecting neutrals.

TEXT OF THE MEMORANDUM.

According to a Berlin telegram the German Government on Feb. 10th handed a Memorandum to the diplomatic representatives of the neutral Powers at Berlin concerning the treatment of armed merchant vessels. The Memorandum says:

Already before the outbreak of the present war the British Government gave English shipowners an opportunity to equip their merchant vessels with guns. The Government was willing to place at the disposal of shipowners guns, sufficient armament, and the personnel necessary for drilling gun crews. British shipowners readily complied with the suggestion of the Admiralty.

Soon after the outbreak of war German cruisers established the fact that British liners were armed. The British Government, so far as its own merchant vessels were concerned, was of opinion that such ships maintained the character of peaceful merchant vessels as long as they carried their arms only for purposes of defence. In accordance therewith the British Ambassador at Washington, in a letter dated August 23, 1914, gave the American Government far-reaching assurances that British merchant vessels had never been armed for purposes of attack, but solely for defence, and that therefore they would never fire unless they had been attacked first. On the other hand, for armed vessels under other flags the British Government brought forward the principle that they should be treated as war vessels.

The German Government does not doubt that merchant vessels by being equipped with guns acquire a warlike character, whether the guns serve for defence only or also for attack. The German Government considers any warlike activity on the part of the enemy merchant vessels to be contrary to international law, though it takes into consideration also the contrary conception by treating the crews of such vessels not as pirates but as belligerents. Some neutral Powers concurred in the British view, while others were of the opposite opinion, and held the armed merchant vessels of belligerents to be subject to the neutrality laws which are in force as regards war vessels.

In the course of the war the arming of British merchant vessels was carried out on a more general scale. From the reports of the German naval forces numerous cases have become known of British merchant vessels not only offering armed resistance to German war vessels, but even of attacking them without hesitation under the repeated use of false colours.

ALLEGED SECRET ADMIRALTY ORDERS.

A list of such alleged cases, which, as is asserted, comprises only a part of the attacks made by merchant vessels, is appended to the Memorandum and is alleged to prove that the attitude of British merchant vessels has been limited by the merchant marine of Great Britain's Allies. Nineteen cases, said to have occurred between April 11, 1915, and January 17, 1916, are contained in the list.

The Memorandum then tries to explain the attitude of the armed British merchant vessels by publishing alleged secret directions issued by the British Admiralty, stated to have been seized on board British steamers by German vessels, and continues:

These directions regulate in detail the rules for artillery attacks by British merchantmen on German submarines. They contain exact regulations regarding the treatment and control of British gun crews on board merchantmen, who, for instance, when in neutral ports, are not allowed to wear their uniforms which make them out as belonging to the British Navy.

Above all, it can be perceived from this that these armed vessels are not to await any warlike action by German submarines, but are to attack them at once. The greatest stress is laid upon keeping secret these orders, which do not only apply to the naval war zone around Great Britain, but are unlimited as regards the sphere of activity, and this, obviously done in order to hide the attitude of merchantmen which is contrary to international laws, and in full contradiction to British assurances to the enemy and neutrals.

It is now proved that armed British merchantmen have an official order treacherously to attack German submarines wherever they meet them, that means mercilessly to wage war against them. As British sea rules have been adopted by Great Britain's Allies without hesitation, this proof must also be regarded as established as regards armed merchantmen of other belligerent States.

THE NEW POLICY.

The Memorandum concludes:—In view of the aforesaid circumstances enemy merchantmen carrying guns are not entitled to be regarded as peaceful merchantmen. The German naval forces, therefore, after a short interval [which ended on Mar. 1st.—Ed.] in the interest of neutrals, will receive no order to treat such vessels as belligerents. The German Government, notifies neutral Powers of this state of affairs in order that they may be able to warn their subjects before entrust-

HUNS HAMMERED FROM
TRENCH.

ATHLETES' NOVEL ARMS.

[BY W. DEACON THOMAS.]

A section of trench which I have visited has been the starting point of the finest and crisper, cutting-out expedition [a trench raid] in the war. Exactly how it was accomplished and how various the results were it is not necessary to say; but I am allowed to give some of the more human details of this most dashing and well-organised attack, in which the Germans lost in the proportion of some 50 to 1.

The night was pitch-dark when two parties of British soldiers slipped over the parapets. As they left they shook hands with their general, who gave them God-speed and saw them dance off "with the gaiety of schoolboys." They were hilarious at the prospect. They had stood in trenches off and on for two months doing the journeyman and not exciting work of war. At last they were shipped from the kish on a venture "really worth a journey to France."

The men were selected men, all athletes or experts in some game or occupation. Most of them could "kill a man with their fist, if they had no weapon," as an admirer said. But the eagerness was more remarkable than the muscle. The fight they were spinning for had come at last. Though the details of the attack were planned, some wise and characteristic individual liberty was given. Each man was permitted—was, indeed, asked—to carry the instrument or weapon that he preferred. Some chose that of Richard Coeur de Lion, some of Hercules. One man put in a special plea for a 2lb. hammer. It seems that in his trade he had been used to wielding a 2lb. hammer, and he felt that in the night time in a strange trench it would feel familiar. "Come up nicely," as they say of a cricket bat. So his request was granted, and the efficacy of his choice was I understand well proved before the dawn.

How the gap, which exceeded a hundred yards, was crossed, how the wires were cut, how the German sentries—one of them suffering to his peril from a backing cough—were tricked, and how the trench was entered, may be left to the imagination. All was done as arranged. Early on Monday morning the two parties entered each its part of the front German trench, a deep, well-made trench. More than this—it was very strongly held. It seemed full of men.

Apart from sentries walking up and down and standing to attention, men crawled out from dug-outs in their sleeping gear, cloaked with blankets and in their stockinged feet. As soon as the alarm was given all sorts and kinds of coloured lights were set up by the enemy, and rifles and machine guns rattled out along the line. But nothing made any difference to the men in those crowded reaches of the trench where the hand-to-hand fighting took place and each man was plying his favourite tool. One officer, after using up all the clips of cartridges which he had taken for his revolver, seized a German rifle, rushed on a group of men behind a traverse and bayoneted three. He himself escaped scot-free. All the bombs were spent in a few minutes, some thrown into the trench, some along it, some into dug-outs. A short and sharp time-limit had been set to this venture.

"Sound, sound the clarion, fill the fifes! To all the sensual world proclaim, One crowded hour of glorious life Is worth an age without a name."

The "crowded hour" within the trench was limited. At the due moment the men cleared for home. Immediately the Germans lit a great flare and the neighbourhood became as light as a town street. But the machine guns had been blown up and a part of the interval was dead ground.

The marauders escaped from the trench and made for home with such lucky speed that not a man was touched. One group must be excused. They were conducting German prisoners and one of our wounded. The passage took more time, and during it the German prisoners were killed and two of our men wounded. Immediately after the men's return our artillery, had turned on to the German trench where the fighting had been, and soon the enemy's artillery began a purely fruitless reprieve.

How many Germans were killed cannot be known for certain. Men returning from such a passionate fight can scarcely count coolly; but some individual tales are known, and all left with the impression that they abandoned a trench filled with dead. Certainly the official estimate is careful and modest. Of the prisoners taken some, as I have said, were killed by the fire of their own men.—*Daily Mail*.

ing their persons or properties to armed merchantmen of Powers at war with the German Empire.

AN IMMORTAL RIGHT.

The *Times* Naval Correspondent writes:—As early in the war as September 23, 1914, and subsequently, I have shown that merchant ships have been armed from time immemorial, and their right to resist capture had never been disputed, until the Germans began to make their numerous efforts to undermine our power at sea. In the past, every merchant ship went armed, and a Royal Proclamation of 1672 instructed them to assist and defend each other against any enemy if attacked, to which end they were to be well provided with muskets, small shot, hand grenades, and other ammunition. I have before pointed out that the historical evidence in support of the practice is overwhelming, and it is inconceivable that the British Government should make any concession in this direction.

After pointing out that the Allied Governments cannot be expected to suffer and the Germans to profit by the contention that the introduction of submarine warfare has altered the relative status of an armed merchant ship, he urges:—Let the belligerents abide by the requirements of international law, which prescribe one method only—that of detention, visit, and search.

IN A FRONT-LINE TRENCH.

A SUBALTERN'S DAY.

[BY LIGHT INFANTRYMAN.]

"Wake up, Jimmy! Wake up! Stand to!" Slowly the meaning of the words dawned on me. It seemed hours ago that someone had shaken me roughly, and now there was no one about, and the "dug-out" was in absolute darkness. I looked at my watch, it was just after six. Quickly slipping off a pair of sandbags, which I had pulled over my legs the night before, I crawled out into the trench. A thin drizzle had made everything slimy and sticky. In many places there were six inches of water at the foot of the trench; and everywhere there was a thick layer of greasy, evil-smelling mud. I was wearing a sheepskin coat, a large scarf, and a Baladava helmet; but for all that I was bitterly cold.

In the front line everything was hurry and bustle. A few minutes before the officer on duty for the company had gone along, waking the other officers and warning the N.C.O.s of each platoon. And now the latter were turning out their respective commands. I walked along to my right section, where I found the men busy getting on their equipment. In a few seconds everyone was standing on the firing-step, looking into the darkness ahead. I went slowly down my platoon. On the way I was joined by my platoon-sergeant.

"Did you hear them shells about two o'clock, sir? Some big stuff landed just in front of our parapet."

"Yes, I heard it, but could not make out where it was going. Any damage to the wire?"

"I can't say, sir. I've been trying to see, but it's rather difficult from the trench."

"Right. Then send out Lance-Corporal Thompson and two men from No. 3 Section. I shall warn the men not to fire at them. Hurry up, as it'll be light soon."

Everything was quiet, at least, for a front-line trench in about the warmest corner of France. Away on the right we could hear an incessant bombardment going on. "Probably the French down South," said the commander of No. 4 platoon, as we met at the ends of our respective sections. As the light grew the Huns started to snipe with commendable perseverance, and bullets kept whistling over almost incessantly.

A few minutes later word came along to "stand down," and everyone was free, except for the day sentries staring through their periscopes at the barren waste between the trenches or trying to detect the least movement behind the low sandbag parapet some two hundred yards in front of them. The worst hour of the twenty-four was over, and the more fortunate majority were free to sleep. Unluckily, however, I was now on duty until nine o'clock.

Perhaps the quietest time of the whole day, in the trenches is the period from "stand-down" until about nine o'clock, and I therefore found myself with little to do. The rain had stopped, and there was no sign of a fine day. The sniping was no longer troublesome, and even the distant shelling had died down. At about eight the buzz of an aeroplane, growing louder and louder, sounded overhead. Suddenly the German anti-aircraft guns opened fire. All round the aeroplane, little more than a speck in the sky, white puffs of smoke showed where the shrapnel were bursting. Soon the heavens became speckled with a hundred little clouds, as the gallant aviator, regardless of the shells sailed up and down the enemy-lines. At length, satisfied with his reconnaissance, the pilot turned round and made all speed for the aerodrome.

A dull rumble miles behind the German trenches, followed immediately by a shriek overhead, was the first warning of the early morning haze. I heard the shell pass well overhead, and looking back over the parapet, I saw a huge cloud of dirt rising into the air some half-mile to our rear. Then came the report. Their target was evidently the already battered chimney of a distillery; but their first shot had fallen short. Another shell followed after a few seconds and the fourth attempt hit the poor old chimney fair and square. They were using very heavy guns so that I was not surprised when the cloud of earth and brick dust had subsided to see only a stump remained. After that, shells came hurrying over one after the other and an area some hundreds of yards round was thoroughly searched. A very noisy and expensive proceeding.

A WASH AND BREAKFAST.

At nine o'clock I was relieved, so I went back to my "dug-out" and sent my servant with an empty biscuit tin to a mine close by, where water could be got. After a thorough wash as circumstances allowed I went round to the company commander's "dug-out," which we used as a mess. Here I found the servants getting our breakfast.

In a few minutes we were all ready—the captain and four subalterns (we had not had a second captain for months). The "dug-out" was quite large, with plenty of room for the table beds. These, together with two or three ammunition boxes, completed the furniture. Well below the trench level the "dug-out" was fairly shell-proof; in fact nothing short of a direct hit from a very heavy shell could have harmed the occupants. It was, however, damp, and always cold. The cooking was done by our servants in the trench outside, and we had a breakfast of bacon and eggs, and tea, followed by a plentiful supply of bread and marmalade. I had been on the go since last night's supper, so I was very glad of my breakfast. During the meal we discussed the doings of the night, before the usual breakfast topic in the trenches. At half-past nine I inspected the rifles of my platoon, seeing that each man was properly dressed and equipped and that the trenches were clean and tidy or as clean as they could be got, at least. Then, after visiting a working party, which was making a new ammunition store, I turned in for a short sleep.

My servant woke me at one o'clock, and I went along to lunch. Coming round a traverse, I found that the trench had been

WAR THE GREAT LEVELLER.

SOCIAL REGENERATOR AND
HEALER.

Mr. Walter Long has been telling an American journalist—Mr. F. A. Wray, of the *New York Tribune*—how the war is affecting life in England—as he sees it. The President of the Local Government Board sees old boundary lines disappearing; neither socially, politically, nor industrially will the country be the same after the war.

All our standards of life are changing," he told the interviewer. "The nation must go back to the simple life, to the less-luxurious method of our ancestors. We shall have to abolish all useless luxury; we must dispense with every form of extravagance."

This war is going to be the great leveller. Money must no longer be the criterion of power. Wealth must no longer be the criterion of superiority. Henceforth the citizens of this country have to pull together.

Already, we see signs of the change in living that the war has brought. We have changed all our habits in eating and drinking. We no longer buy expensive clothes or expensive cars. The man who formerly would not go to dinner at the Ritz unless driven there in his own car now contentedly takes a penny omnibus. Another man who would not be seen smoking anything but expensive cigars now walks the streets smoking a pipe.

"Do you think that peace will bring about a social upheaval which is likely to cause a clash between Capital and Labour?"

"I do not," said Mr. Long. "Agonising as this war is, yet in many ways I believe it will not be as a social regenerator and healer. Speaking broadly, I believe the relations between Capital and Labour are exceedingly harmonious at present, and I see no reason why peace should alter this state of affairs; in fact, I think it will intensify it."

blown in for a distance of some yards. A broken rifle and some stains of blood showed that the occupants of that section had not all escaped.

"Yes, we had four casualties there," said my company commander afterwards; "one killed, the other three quite slight wounds. A shell came into their 'dug-out'; only a 'pip-squeak,' but it made quite a mess. The trouble is they start shelling again whenever we try to clear things up; so we'll have to leave it till to-night, and go round by the support trench."

Lunch over, I spent some hours writing and censoring letters, and reading "Sponge's Sporting Tour." A fairly long book, full of humour or incident, which you can read in debits, is the greatest comfort at the front. About three o'clock the Huns began to send over rifle grenades, probably to silence some snipers on our right. The grenades being ineffective, they tried their trench mortars. Now the ordinary trench mortar bomb is quite useless against a "dug-out," so nobody minded much, except the sentries, who were unable to take shelter. Soon, however, a terrific explosion just over the parapet, announced the first "rum-jar," a huge trench mortar bomb containing anything over a hundred pounds of gunpowder. This was the last straw, and we promptly telephoned for artillery support. Within seven minutes we were left in peace, while British shells were shrieking and whistling overhead.

"That's the stuff to give 'em," said Private Blagg, for the twentieth time in the day. After supper we had a consultation about the work for the night, and each officer was allotted his two hours of duty. I had from four to six. Then the company ran over the work for each platoon.

"You will provide the listening post to-night, James, one N.C.O. and five men. They should be out at half-past six. You'll also have to repair your wire according to that report; we can't leave it any longer. I went out and saw my platoon sergeant. 'You've got the listening post told off, Sergeant, Welch?'

"Yes, sir."

"Then we shall want a working party to mend the wire, four men and a lance-corporal. Tell off some lance-corporal who understands wire entanglements. The remaining men available will be for draining and bricking the floor of 'Shafesbury Avenue,' that's the trench running from the front line to 'Oxford-street.' They can work in one-hour shifts. The men who went down for the rats need not work to-night."

THE TIME FOR WORK.

After that I sent out my listening post, and the working parties got busy. The night is the time for work in the trenches; hours of hard and most necessary work. Draining a communication trench is a simple enough job; but mending wire is a dangerous and difficult task, when the enemy are alert. However, my party escaped notice, and returned unmolested. Once an enemy patrol was seen, and all the sentries near opened fire. Then both our machine-guns and the German ones took up the firing. The "no man's land" was hit by many pistol lights, and the working party lay still and shivered. As the patrol seemed to have disappeared the British soon ceased fire, and the enemy, seeing no target, followed suit. Then all was silent again.

As I turned in at eleven o'clock a corporal reported a casualty in his section. "Stopped a stray bullet while on sentry," he said. Killed him outright. It seems to have gone right through his head."

I gave instructions for the disposal of the body, and turned into my "dug-out." On the whole we had had a lucky day; only five casualties in that company, was quite good for that particular piece of trench.

In five hours I would be pulled out again to go on duty. But what did it matter? We had only two days more, and then back to billets. I turned over sleepily. A few minutes after there was a loud explosion, and the ground gave a subtle quiver; then a burst of rifle and the crash of shells. "Someone having trouble with a mine. Thank goodness it is too far off for us to have to tam out," I thought as I dozed off again.—*Daily Chronicle*.

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• TJILIWONG...	KORE	29th Mar.	30th Mar.	BATAVIA
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USUAL PORTS OF CALL	Capt. H. R. Retherington, R.N.R.	24th Mar.	Advertisement
SHANGHAI, MOJI, KOBE, NAGOYA	About	Freight and	
and YOKOHAMA	Capt. A. B. Garwood, R.N.R.	29th Mar.	Passage
LONDON via SINGAPORE, PENANG, COLOMBO, NORE	About	Freight and	
PORT SAID and	Capt. D. Asbury	30th Mar.	Passage
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SHANGHAI	"LUCHOW"	On 26th Mar. 11 P.M.
HOIHOW, PAKHOI and HAIPHONG	"SUNGHIANG"	On 27th Mar. 9 A.M.
SHANGHAI	"LINGCHOW"	On 28th Mar. 4 P.M.
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FOR SWATOW.

"HAIHONG" ...	Capt. J. W. Evans	THURSDAY, 30th Mar., at 2 P.M.
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MALTA	6,000	April 7	KHIVA	9,000	May 8	May 16
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	KITANO MARU	16,000	THURSDAY, 6th Apr., at Noon.
VICTORIA, B.C. and SEATTLE via SHANGHAI, MOJI, KOBE, YOKKAICHI and YOKOHAMA	SSADO MARU	12,500	TUESDAY, 4th Apr., at Noon.
	AWAMARU	12,500	TUESDAY, 18th Apr., at Noon.
SYDNEY and MELBOURNE via MANILA, BANGORANG, THURSDAY ISLAND, TOWNSVILLE and BRISBANE	NIKKO MARU	8,600	FRIDAY, 14th Apr., at 4 P.M.
	AKI MARU	12,500	TUESDAY, 16th May, at 11 A.M.
CALCUTTA via SINGAPORE, PENANG and RANGOON	CEYLON MARU	10,000	SATURDAY, 26th Mar.
BOMBAY via SINGAPORE, MALACCA and COLOMBO	YETOROFU MARU	8,000	WED'DAY, 29th Mar.
SHANGHAI, MOJI and KOBE	COLOMBO MARU	8,000	FRIDAY, 24th Mar.
SHANGHAI, MOJI and KOBE	AKI MARU	12,500	FRIDAY, 14th Apr., at 10 A.M.
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CHIYO MARU	22,000—21 knots ...	SAT., 8th April	
† PERIA MARU ...	9,000—17 knots ...	FRIDAY 21st April	
TENYO MARU	22,000—21 knots ...	SAT., 6th May.	
† SEIYO MARU ...	14,000—14 knots ...	THURS., 11th May.	
† NIPPON MARU	11,000—15 knots ...	TUESDAY, 10th May.	
SHINYO MARU	22,000—21 knots ...	WED., 31st May.	

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FOR VICTORIA AND TACOMA via MANILA, MOJI, KOBE, YOKKAICHI and YOKOHAMA	STEAMER "TACOMA MARU"	Captain T. Hamada	SATURDAY, 25th Mar., at 3 P.M.
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These Newly-Built Steamers of American Line have fair speed and are fitted with the Wireless Apparatus. Best adapted rooms for carrying Silk, Treasure and Furs.

FOR BOMBAY, VIA SINGAPORE, PORT SWETTENHAM, PENANG, AND COLOMBO.

STEAMER "SAIGON MARU"	Captain T. Yamaguchi	TUESDAY, 4th Apr., at 7 A.M.
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FOR TAMSUI AND KEELUNG VIA SWATOW AND AMOY.

STEAMER "DAIGI MARU"	Captain T. Konishi	SUNDAY, 26th Mar., at Noon.
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FOR ANPING AND TAKAO VIA SWATOW AND AMOY.

STEAMER "GOSU MARU"	Captain A. Kichiyoshi	WED'DAY, 29th Mar., at 9 A.M.
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These Steamers of Coast and Formosa Line have Excellent accommodation for First Class Passengers and are fitted with Electric Light and Fans.

These Steamers will arrive at and depart from Soon Yip Wharf (near the Harbours Office).

For FURTHER INFORMATION, apply to

H. YAMAUCHI,

MANAGER.

Second Floor, No. 1, Queen's Building.

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THOS. COOK & SON.

TOURIST, STEAMSHIP AND FORWARDING AGENTS, BANKERS, ETC., OFFICIAL AGENTS TO THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT.

HONGKONG—SHANGHAI—YOKOHAMA—MANILA.

TICKETS SUPPLIED TO KUBOFF by the principal STEAMSHIP LINES and TRANS-SIBERIAN RAILWAY.

TOURS arranged to ALL PARTS of the WORLD.

BAGGAGE collected, forwarded and insured at lowest rates.

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Cook's "FAR EASTERN TRAVELLER'S GAZETTE," containing Sailings and Fares from the Far East to all parts of the World, will be forwarded free on application.

CHINESE OFFICES—LUDGATE CIRCUS, LONDON, E.C.

Hongkong, 9th February, 1915

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